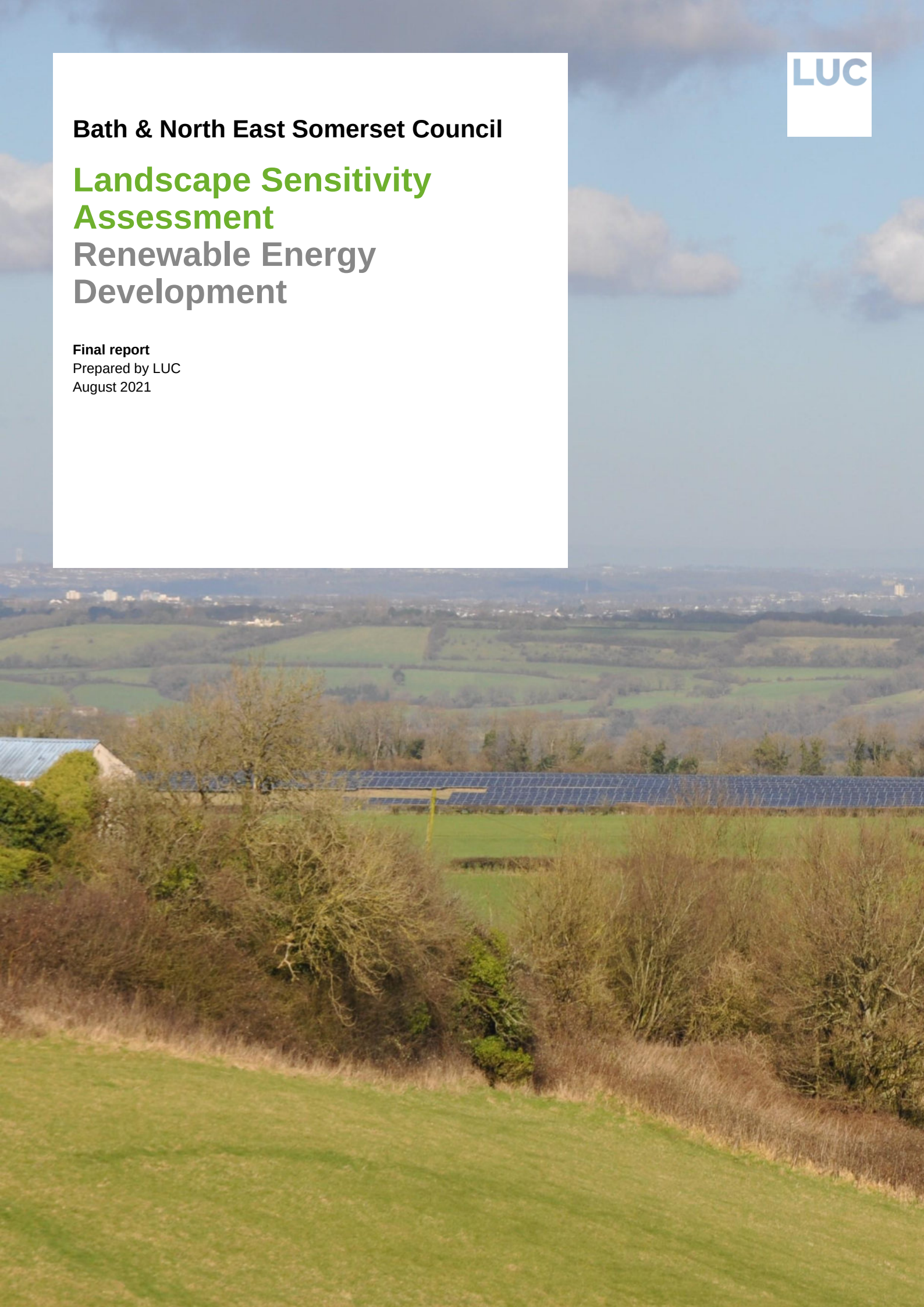

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment
Renewable Energy Development

Final report
Prepared by LUC
August 2021

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment
Renewable Energy Development

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Contents

Chapter 1
Introduction

This chapter gives an overview of the context of this study

Context

1.1 This report forms part of a suite of evidence prepared by LUC to provide robust information on the landscapes of Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES). It is designed to inform plan-making, development management and land use decisions within B&NES, in support of the forthcoming Local Plan 2016-2036.

1.2 In 2019 B&NES Council declared a climate emergency, requiring the district to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The Council is undertaking a partial update to its Local Plan to ensure its planning policy framework better helps address the climate emergency. This includes setting out a policy approach to renewable energy development. The implications for the landscape of such development is an important factor that needs to be carefully considered. Therefore, a landscape sensitivity assessment relating to solar and wind energy developments have been undertaken.

1.3 The Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA) for Renewable Energy Development provides judgements on the landscape potential of different parts of the B&NES landscape to accommodate solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy development in the future. The results of this study aim to provide an indication of landscape sensitivity across the district, so that potential opportunities and constraints for siting such developments be considered. This will also allow the Council to identify broad areas for renewable energy development and establish a local policy framework for such development, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 151).

1.4 **Figure 1.1** presents the new, unified classification of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) across B&NES[1], which forms the spatial framework for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment.

1.5 The method is described in **Chapter 2** and results presented in **Chapter 3**. Individual assessment profiles for each LCT are presented in **Appendix A**.

[1] LUC. Bath and North East Somerset Landscape Character Assessment (2021) Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment (2017)

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

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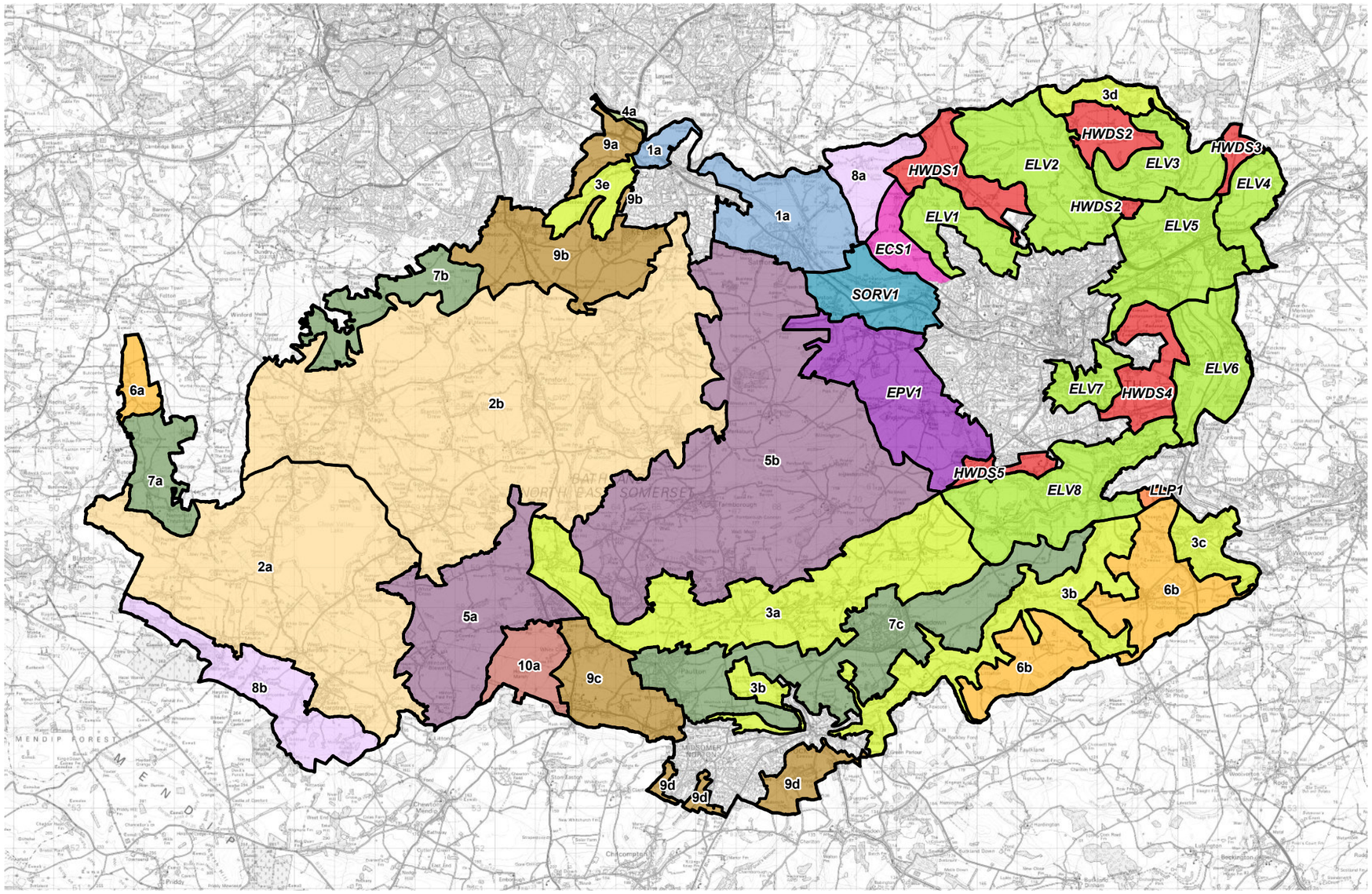
Figure 1.1: Landscape Character Types and Areas within B&NES (B&NES LCA 2021 and Bathscape LCA 2017)



Bath and North East Somerset

B&NES Landscape Character Types and Areas (2021)

- 1: Settled River Valleys
  - 1a: Avon Valley
- 2: Rolling Valley Farmland
  - 2a: Upper Chew and Yeo Valleys and Chew Valley Lake
  - 2b: Chew Valley
- 3: Enclosed Valleys
  - 3a: Cam Brook Valley
  - 3b: Wellow Brook Valley
  - 3c: Frome Valley (Freshford to Iford)
  - 3d: St Catherine's Valley
  - 3e: Stockwood Vale and Charlton Bottom
- 4: Limestone Gorges
  - 4a: Bickley Wood Gorge
- 5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys
  - 5a: Hinton Blewett
  - 5b: Farmborough
- 6: Limestone Plateaux
  - 6a: Thrubwell Farm Plateau
  - 6b: Hinton Charterhouse and Baggridge Plateau
- 7: Hills and Ridges
  - 7a: Nempnett Thrubwell Hills & Ridges
  - 7b: Dundry Hill and Maes Knoll
  - 7c: Peasedown St John Ridge
- 8: Escarpments and Slopes
  - 8a: North Stoke Scarp
  - 8b: Mendip Slopes
- 9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
  - 9a: Hicks Gate Farmland
  - 9b: Whitchurch Farmland
  - 9c: Farrington Gurney Farmlands
  - 9d: Norton Radstock Southern Farmlands
- 10: Levels
  - 10a: Hollow Marsh

Bathscape Landscape Character Types and Areas (2017)

- *Settled Open River Valley*
  - *SORV1: River Avon Valley West & Kelston Park*
- *Enclosed Limestone Valley*
  - *ELV1: Weston Valley*
  - *ELV2: Lam Brook Valley*
  - *ELV3: Northend & St. Catherineos Valley*
  - *ELV4: Lower By Brook Valley*
  - *ELV5: River Avon Valley & Tributary Confluences*
  - *ELV6: Bathampton & Limpley Stoke Valley*
  - *ELV7: Perrymead & Lyncombe*
  - *ELV8: Cam & Midford Brook Valley*
- *Eroded Plateau and Valleys*
  - *EPV1: Newton & Corston Brook Valleys*
- *Low Limestone Plateau*
  - *LLP1: Hinton Charterhouse Plateau*
- *Escarpment*
  - *ESC1: Dean Hill to Prospect Stile*
- *High Wold Dip-Slope*
  - *HWDS1: Lansdown Plateau*
  - *HWDS2: Charmy Down and Little Sosbury Hill*
  - *HWDS3: Bannerdown*
  - *HWDS4: Claverton & Bathampton Down*
  - *HWDS5: Sulis Manor*

0 2 4 km

Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig1_1_11290_r0_LCT_LCA_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

Chapter 2
Method

This chapter sets out the method for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for solar PV and wind energy

Scope of the assessments

2.1 This landscape sensitivity assessment focuses on the landscape considerations associated with ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy developments[2] at a strategic level.

2.2 The results of the assessment (see **Chapter 3**) provide an initial indication of the relative landscape potential of different areas within B&NES to accommodate solar PV and wind energy developments. The assessment of 'landscape potential' is based on an understanding of landscape sensitivity, using an established methodology consistent with national guidance. These results should be interpreted alongside the detailed information provided in separate assessment profiles.

2.3 The assessment should not be interpreted as a definitive statement on the suitability of certain locations for development. It is also important to note that this assessment does not provide guidance on the wide range of other planning issues that need to be considered as part of the preparation and determination of planning applications for renewable energy developments.

Policy context

European Landscape Convention

2.4 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It established the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation

[2]This study updates the previous wind energy analysis prepared by LUC in 2010: *Landscape Sensitivity Analysis for Wind Energy Development in Bath and North East Somerset* available here

and implementation of landscape policies. The ELC remains relevant despite the UK's departure from the EU.

2.5 The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded or outstanding:

> *"Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."*

Signing up to the ELC means that the UK is committed to protect, manage and plan our landscapes for the future. The Convention also advocates work to raise landscape awareness, involvement and enjoyment amongst local and visiting communities. Landscape character is defined by the ELC as *"a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse".* Again, this reinforces the underlying message that 'all landscapes matter'.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.6 The UK Government published an updated and revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2021, which sets out the environmental, social and economic planning policies for England. Central to NPPF policies is a presumption in favour of sustainable development; that development should be planned for positively and individual proposals should be approved wherever possible.

2.7 One of the overarching objectives that underpins the NPPF is set out in Paragraph 8: *"an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment."*

2.8 Paragraph 174 states *that "planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes"* and *"recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside"*.

2.9 The NPPF also makes explicit reference to the need for defined strategic policies that make sufficient provision for climate change mitigation and adaptation, landscape and green infrastructure (Paragraph 20).

2.10 Paragraph 155 states that *"to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:*

a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development…"

2.11 This national policy requirement, along with the council's climate emergency declaration, are the key drivers behind the landscape sensitivity assessments.

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)

2.12 Further guidance is provided in the NPPG on how local planning authorities can identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy. It states that:

"…when considering impacts, assessments can use tools to identify where impacts are likely to be acceptable. For example, landscape character areas could form the basis for considering which technologies at which scale may be appropriate in different types of location... "

2.13 This study uses a new framework of Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types[3] for the landscape sensitivity assessments – see further explanation on the methodology in **Chapter 2**.

Local Plan policy

2.14 The development of the Local Plan to cover 2016-2036 began in 2018, as part of the wider West of England Joint Spatial Plan. This was a shared strategic plan for B&NES, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils. The Joint Spatial Plan was halted at Examination stage, and the Plan was withdrawn in January 2020. Work is now underway on a West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Mayoral Spatial Development Strategy which will form the context for the new B&NES Local Plan.

2.15 In order to address some urgent issues, a Partial Update of the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan is currently underway. Consultation on the options closed in February 2021, and the Regulation 19 consultation is planned for spring/summer 2021. The aim is to adopt the Partial Update in spring 2022.

2.16 The current adopted plan for B&NES is the District-wide Strategy and Policies, made up of the Core Strategy (adopted July 2014) and the Placemaking Plan (adopted July 2017).

2.17 The following strategic objectives and policies relate directly to the Local Plan's stance on climate change,

[3] At the time of writing, LUC is working on an update to the current Landscape Character Assessment for B&NES (2003), which is available here

renewable energy and the protection of landscapes throughout B&NES.

Strategic Objectives

- **Strategic Objective 1: Climate change** B&NES aims to pursue a low carbon and sustainable future in a changing climate.
- **Strategic Objective 2: Growth** aims to protect and enhance the natural, built and cultural assets of the District, and provide green infrastructure.

Policies

- **Policy SCR1: On-site Renewable Energy Requirement** states that developers of major proposals (1,000 square metres of 10 dwellings) will be required to provide sufficient renewable energy generation to reduce carbon emissions in the building by at least 10%.
- **Policy SCR3: Ground-mounted Solar Arrays** states that applications for solar farms should focus on non-agricultural land or lower quality agricultural land; be sensitive to nationally and locally protected landscapes; minimise visual impact and maintain appropriate screening through the lifetime of the project; and that land is returned to its former use at the end of the project.
- **Policy SCR4: Community Renewable Energy Schemes** states that the positive benefits of community energy schemes is a material consideration in assessing renewable energy development proposals, and that the preference is for schemes that are led by and directly meet the needs of local communities. It also states the criteria required to be met for renewable energy proposals within the Green Belt, where community benefits are proposed to meet the 'very special circumstances' test.
- **Policy CP3: Renewable Energy** states that proposals for low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure will be assessed against the social and economic benefits, contribution to significant community benefits, the need for secure and reliable energy generation capacity and the environmental impact.
- **Policy CP6: Environmental Quality** states that the distinctive character and quality of landscapes should be conserved or enhanced through high quality and inclusive design.
- **Policy D2: Local Character and Distinctiveness** states that development proposals should respond to natural features including landscape, green infrastructure, skylines, topography and landform and views.
- **Policy NE2: Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape and Landscape Character** states that development must conserve or enhance local landscape character, landscape features and local distinctiveness, conserve and enhance important views and take opportunities to create new local views and vistas and avoid or adequately mitigate any adverse effects on landscape.
- **Policy NE2A: Landscape Setting of Settlements** states that development should conserve and enhance the landscape setting of settlements and their landscape character, views and features.
- **Policy B4: The World Heritage Site and its Setting** states that development will be refused if it will result in harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, its authenticity or integrity.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the City of Bath World Heritage Site (plus setting)

2.18 **Figure 2.1** shows which parts of the District fall within the Mendip Hills and Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS). This map also shows the indicative setting of the WHS.

Cotswolds AONB

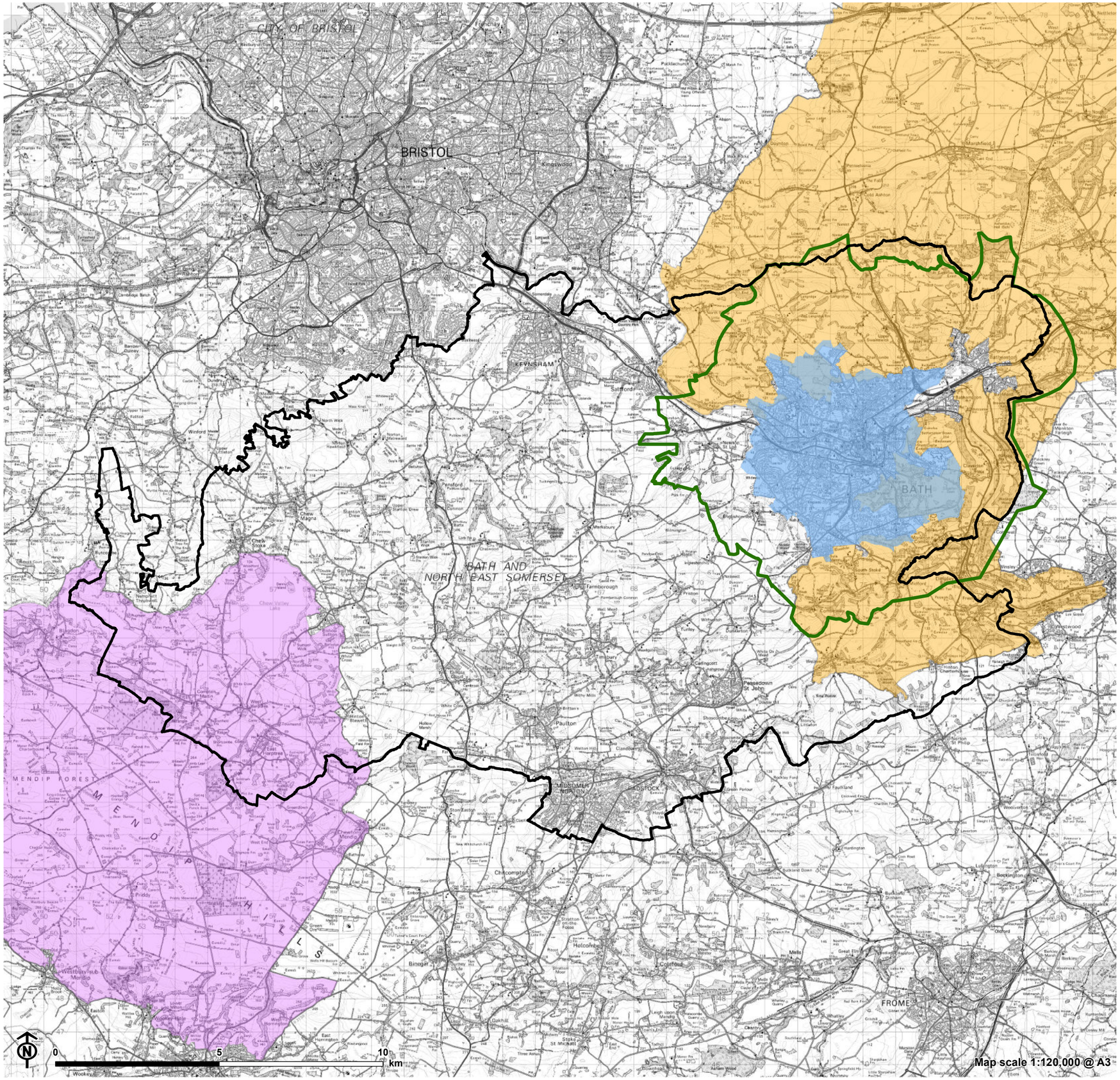
2.19 The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), now known as the Cotswolds National Landscape, was designated in 1966, with an extension in 1990. The AONB is located across 15 local authorities, and 73 square kilometres (3.6%) lies within B&NES . There are many 'special qualities' of the AONB, including the unifying character of the limestone geology; the Cotswold escarpment; high wolds and river valleys; tranquillity and dark skies areas; accessibility for recreation; significant archaeological and historic associations; and vibrant cultural associations.

2.20 The latest Management Plan[4] was published in 2018 and covers the period to 2023. Relevant policies include:

- **Policy CC7: Climate Change – Mitigation** states that small-scale forms of renewable energy that are compatible with the AONB designation will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Policy CE1: Landscape** states that development proposals should have regard to, be compatible with, and reinforce the landscape character and scenic quality

[4] Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023, Cotswolds Conservation Board. https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/planning/cotswolds-aonb-management-plan/

Figure 2.1: Coverage of statutory landscape designations within and surrounding B&NES



CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig2_1_11290_r0_LandscapeDesingations_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

of the location and its setting, ensuring views into and out of the AONB are conserved and enhanced.

- **Policy CE3: Local distinctiveness** states that development should be compatible with the strategy and guidelines set out in the Landscape Character Assessment.

2.21 The Cotswolds Conservation Board's Position Statement on Renewable Energy (2014) acknowledges that, *"along with other areas* [the AONB] *must play its part in reducing emissions, and this may be helped by the small-scale, local generation of energy from renewable sources. However, any schemes should ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area".*

Mendip Hills AONB

The Mendip Hills AONB was designated in 1972 and covers a total of 198 square kilometres, of which 37 square kilometres lie within B&NES. It is a range of limestone hills stretching from Weston-Super-Mare and the Bristol Channel to the Frome valley. The 'special qualities' of the AONB include the distinctive limestone ridges and scarp slopes, views to and from the AONB sparsely populated plateau, dark skies and tranquillity and significant archaeology and history.

2.22 The latest Management Plan[5] was published in 2019 and covers the period to 2024. Relevant objectives include:

- **L1** ensure that the distinctive landscape is conserved and enhanced through appropriate management.
- **D3** encourage reduction in carbon emissions within the AONB utilising renewable energy generation technologies of an appropriate type and scale for their setting.

City of Bath World Heritage Site

2.23 The City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS) was inscribed in 1987 and covers the entire urban area of Bath. The attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS are listed in **Table 2.1** on the next page**[6].**

2.24 The indicative setting of the WHS is inextricably linked with the Outstanding Universal Values of the site itself, even though it has not always been afforded the same recognition. In 2013 a City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)[7] was issued to ensure planning decisions can be made based on a thorough understanding of the consequences of any proposals.

2.25 The landscape setting relates to the striking and complex landform that contains the city within a 'bowl' and its open green character. The visual setting primarily relates to the Georgian city, including the harmonious relationship of buildings and landscape as well as the appreciation of the picturesque qualities of the landscape within and around Bath, which were integral to the experience of visitors and residents to Bath during the Georgian period.

2.26 The views out from the city show the importance of the green upper slopes and skyline all the way around the built city. Looking from within and across the city one sees a succession of hills and ridges, some of which can be seen from key locations within the WHS, such as the Royal Crescent and Georgian Upper Town area.

2.27 Chapter 5 of the SPD summarises the key aspects of the City of Bath World Heritage Site setting [emphasis added]:

- **The distinctive character** provided by the topography, the townscape and land-use including the green undeveloped farmland, green spaces, and trees and woodland, landscape features and the qualities such as tranquillity which characterise the surroundings of the Site.
- **The views** afforded from the city to the green hillsides, woodland and open spaces and conversely the opportunities provided by the surroundings to view the city. Typically views into the city are few which reflects the compact form of the city which appears to be contained within a hollow and is surrounded by hills.
- **The historical associations with the city** from the key Roman and Georgian periods. These include archaeological sites such as Roman villas, historic buildings such as Kelston Manor and Bailbrook House, historical sites, walks and rides appreciated in Georgian times through to the present day, including **opportunities for the enjoyment of the natural landscape** and activities and features within the landscape including the interpretation and appreciation of the 'picturesque' qualities of the natural landscape.
- **Routes into and out of the city** and the quality and character of their environs and views to and from them.
- **The River Avon, the Kennet and Avon Canal and surviving evidence of the Somerset Coal Canal** and the quality and character of them and their environs and the views to and from them.

[5] Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2019-2024, Mendip Hills AONB Partnership. Available from here.

[6] The City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan 2016-2022, City of Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group. Available here.

[7] SPD available from here

Table 2.1: City of Bath WHS Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value

Headline attribute	Summary description
Roman archaeology	Roman remains based around the hot springs at the heart of the Roman town of Aquae Sulis are among the most important and famous Roman remains north of the Alps. These include the Roman Baths and Temple complex.
Hot springs	Unique in Britain, the hot springs have played a central role in the city's development.
Georgian town planning	Its innovative and cohesive landscaped concept is harmonised with its green valley setting. In the Georgian period Bath was reinvented as a fashionable health resort, where architecture and the natural landscape complemented each other. Attractive views and vistas were deliberately created to take advantage of the landscape.
Georgian architecture	Neo-classical public buildings and set piece developments including terraces, crescents, squares and the Circus designed by Palladian-inspired Bath architects.
Green setting	The green setting of the City in a hollow in the hills – the deliberate appreciation of the landscape in the creation of a beautiful city. Bath lies in a hollow of hills enabling green views in every direction from the city centre. Trees and woodlands on the skyline and the river, canal parks and gardens add beauty. Open grazing land remains on the edge of Bath, creating a historical link.
Georgian architecture reflecting 18th century social ambitions	Bath's role as a destination for pilgrimage and the social aspirations of the fashionable spa culture that created the Georgian city.

Spatial framework for the assessment

2.28 The emerging spatial framework of 10 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and 23 component Landscape Character Areas (LCA) identified for the B&NES Landscape Character Assessment update (2021) form the spatial framework for this assessment.

2.29 In addition, the assessments consider parts of B&NES that fall within the 'Bathscape' study area. This area has its own Landscape Character Assessment (2017)[8], which aligns with the above update.

2.30 The LCTs and component LCAs which form the spatial framework for this study are shown at previous **Figure 1.1**.

Type and scale of solar PV developments considered

2.31 The assessment considers the landscape sensitivity and potential of B&NES' landscapes to ground-mounted solar PV developments. Such developments consist of 'arrays' of solar PV panels, usually around three metres in height and mounted on aluminium / stainless steel frames, with associated infrastructure including inverters, on-site powerhouse, security fencing and CCTV. Solar PV developments in domestic gardens or roof mounted panels are outside the scope of this study.

The assessment judges the suitability of different scales of solar PV developments, based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers. The sizes[9] used for the assessment are set out in **Table 2.2.**

Table 2.2: Solar PV development sizes

Solar PV Development Banding	Area
Band A	≤5ha
Band B	>5 to 10ha
Band C	>10 to 15ha
Band D	>15 to 30ha

Type and scale of wind energy developments considered

2.32 The wind energy landscape sensitivity assessment applies to all forms of wind turbines, although it has been based on the most common horizontal axis three-bladed turbine.

2.33 The assessment considers the suitability of different turbine heights (to blade tip), based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers (now and in the future). These are set out in **Table 2.3** below.

Table 2.3: Wind turbine development sizes

Wind Energy Development Banding	Turbine Height (to blade tip)
Band A	18 – 25m
Band B	26 – 60m
Band C	61 – 99m
Band D	100 – 120m
Band E	121 – 150m

Evaluating landscape sensitivity

2.34 This assessment draws on advice contained in Natural England's *'Approach to landscape sensitivity assessment'* (2019)[10] which supersedes 'Techniques and criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity' (Natural England, 2002). This describes the term 'landscape sensitivity', within the context of spatial planning and land management, as follows:

> *"Landscape sensitivity may be regarded as a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development types or land management practices, without undue negative effects on the landscape and visual baseline and their value."*

2.35 It is a term applied to landscape character and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to the specific development type / development scenario or other change being considered together with the value(s) related to that landscape and visual resource.

Assessment criteria

2.36 Landscape sensitivity assessment requires judgements on both landscape susceptibility (how vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments) and landscape value (consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as the 'valued landscape

[8] Available to view here
[9] The sizes of solar PV developments indicate the areas taken up by solar PV panels only.
[10] Natural England's 2019 approach document is available here

attributes and features' set out in B&NES Landscape Character Type Strategies).

2.37 The selection of landscape sensitivity indicators ('criteria') for this study is informed by the attributes of landscape that could be affected by solar and wind energy development. These consider the 'landscape', 'visual' and 'perceptual' aspects of sensitivity. Their selection is also based on current best practice and experience of LUC in undertaking similar studies elsewhere in the UK.

2.38 The following five criteria headings are used for this study:

- Landform and scale (including sense of openness / enclosure);
- Landcover (including field and settlement patterns);
- Historic landscape character;
- Visual character (including skylines); and
- Perceptual and scenic qualities.

2.39 **Tables 2.5 and 2.6** at the end of this chapter provide guidance and examples of higher and lower sensitivity features/attributes for applying the criteria in B&NES, for solar PV and wind energy, respectively. The assessments present a commentary against each criterion to inform the judgements on levels of sensitivity. It is important to note that the relative importance of each criterion varies between landscapes (due to differences in landscape character). See further discussion/examples of this in paragraph 2.44.

2.40 The initial stage of the assessment involved a thorough desk-based study drawing on sources of spatial and descriptive information regarding the landscape (see **Appendix A**). This was supplemented by field survey work undertaken by a team of landscape professionals to verify the findings.

Making overall judgements on landscape potential

2.41 Once the landscape sensitivity criteria were assessed individually, the results were translated into overall scores of 'landscape potential' (see **Table 2.4**) for the different bandings of solar PV and wind energy developments. This was undertaken for every LCT and the results are shown in the individual assessment profiles. If any component LCAs within the LCT were judged to be of higher/lower landscape potential (due to local variations in landscape sensitivity), this is accounted for in the assessments and results.

Table 2.4: The five-point scale of 'landscape potential'

Category of landscape potential	Definition
5 (Low potential)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change. New solar PV or wind energy developments are likely to result in a significant change in character. Therefore there is low landscape potential for new development within the LCT/LCA.
4 (Low – Moderate potential)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from new solar PV or wind energy developments. There may be some very limited potential to accommodate developments without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
3 (Moderate potential)	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some potential to accommodate new solar PV or wind energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
2 (Moderate-High potential)	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate new solar PV or wind energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing schemes to avoid adversely affecting landscape character.
1 (High potential)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of new solar PV or wind energy developments. The landscape is likely to have high potential to accommodate such development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

2.42 . The five defined levels of 'landscape potential' form stages on a continuum, rather than clearly separated categories. Any given landscape may or may not fit neatly into one category, and an element of professional judgement is required.

2.43 As with all assessments based upon data and information which is to a greater or lesser extent subjective, some caution is required in its interpretation. This is to avoid the suggestion that certain landscape features or qualities can automatically be associated with certain sensitivities – the reality is that an assessment of a landscape's potential to accommodate development is the result of a complex interplay of often unequally weighted variables (or 'criteria').

2.44 There may be one criterion that has a strong influence on landscape sensitivity in a particular LCT (or LCA) which decreases the overall landscape potential score (an example

for solar PV might be a landscape with a prominent/highly visible ridgeline, or significant coverage of semi-natural habitats). There may also be criteria that produce conflicting scores. For example, a small-scale landscape with historic field patterns may also afford greater screening of panels from topography and a dense network of hedgerows. A conflicting example for wind could be in the context of a settled landscape. While it would have a greater human influence (indicating a lower sensitivity to new development), it would also contain more human scale features that could be affected by large-scale wind turbines (indicating a higher sensitivity). Conversely, a more remote landscape is likely to lack human-scale features but is likely to present a higher sensitivity from a perceptual point of view.

2.45 In these situations, a professional judgement is made on overall landscape potential, taking all criteria into account in the context of their importance to the landscape character and quality of the individual LCT/LCA.

Presentation of results

2.46 The full landscape sensitivity assessments for each of the LCTs are presented in **separate assessment profiles**. These are structured as follows:

- A summary description of the LCT against each of the assessment criteria, giving a landscape sensitivity assessment rating for both development types (following the approach set out at Tables 2.5 and 2.6).
- Landscape potential 'scores' for new solar PV and wind energy development within each of the different bandings, using the five-point scale shown at Table 2.4.
- An overall discussion on the landscape potential of the LCT to new solar PV and wind energy developments, referencing particular features, attributes or locations which may be more or less sensitive.
- Discussion on any variations to the overall LCT scores at the LCA level.
- Recommendations and guidance for accommodating future solar PV and wind energy developments in the landscape.

2.47 The next chapter sets out the overall results of the assessments.

Table 2.5: Criteria and guidance for assessing landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)				
A flat or gently undulating lowland landscape or extensive plateau is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development (and therefore have greater landscape potential) than a landscape with prominent landforms and visible slopes. This is because arrays of solar PV panels will be less easily perceived in a flat landscape than on a slope (including hills and knolls), especially higher slopes. A landscape with a strong sense of enclosure (e.g. provided by land cover such as woodland, tree cover or high hedges) is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development than an open and unenclosed landscape because these features will be able to provide screening. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating solar PV schemes.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau, often a larger scale landform. A very well enclosed landscape – e.g. with fields bounded by high hedges and dense tree/woodland cover.	A simple gently rolling landscape, likely to be a medium-large scale landform. Some enclosure provided by hedges and tree/woodland cover.	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes. Some areas lacking screening by field boundaries or tree cover, whilst others might have a greater sense of enclosure owing to a denser occurrence of these features.	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may contain prominent, visible slopes with little sense of enclosure (low, few or no hedgebanks or trees/areas of woodland).	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes and no field boundaries or tree cover to provide screening.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)				
Since solar PV panels introduce a new land cover (of built structures), landscapes containing existing hard surfacing or built elements (e.g. urban areas, brownfield sites or large-scale horticulture) are likely to be less sensitive to field-scale solar PV development than highly rural or naturalistic landscapes. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating solar PV schemes. Landscapes with small-scale, more irregular field patterns are likely to be more sensitive to the introduction of solar PV development (and therefore have less landscape potential) than landscapes with large, regular scale field patterns because of the risk of diluting or masking the characteristic landscape patterns. This would be particularly apparent if development takes place across a number of adjacent fields where the field pattern is small and intricate (bearing in mind that the height of panels could exceed that of a hedge or stone wall).				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
A landscape with large-scale, regular fields of mainly modern origin. An urban or 'brownfield' landscape.	A landscape which is mainly defined by large, modern fields or those sub-divided for non-traditional uses, e.g. horse keeping. An area of large-scale horticulture or some urban or brownfield influences.	A landscape with a mixture of large-scale, modern fields and some smaller, more historic enclosure. A rural landscape, perhaps with some brownfield sites or urban influences.	A landscape dominated by ancient, small-scale field patterns with a few isolated areas of modern enclosure and / or with some areas of semi-natural land cover.	A landscape characterised by small-scale, ancient field patterns and/ or a landscape dominated by semi-natural land cover.

Historic landscape character				
Landscapes which contain important archaeological or historic features or historic associations are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to solar PV development (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Historical features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, areas of buried archaeology, historic landscapes such as the City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS) and its setting, or buildings/structures designated for their historical significance. Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historical feature or landscape may also have higher sensitivity to solar PV development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to solar PV development. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating solar PV schemes.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the character of the area and little time depth (i.e. large intensively farmed fields).	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the character area and some time depth.	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to character, and a variety of time depths.	A landscape with many historic features important to the area and a strong sense of time depth.	A landscape with a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and great time depth (e.g. all may be within the WHS)
Visual character (including skylines)				
The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to solar PV development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than an enclosed landscape (and therefore have lower landscape potential), since any solar panels will be more widely seen. Landscapes which have important visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area (which may be a designated landscape such as the WHS), are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another. Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to solar PV development (and therefore have lower landscape potential) because panels may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines if not sited appropriately. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons, the addition of solar panels may lead to visual confusion due to differences in scale. Therefore developed skylines might not necessarily indicate lower sensitivity.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline.	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features – other skylines in adjacent LCTs may be more prominent.	A landscape which has some inter-visibility with neighbouring areas. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline.	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. It or the landscape(s) it is visible from is designated as AONB or part of the WHS / WHS setting. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines.

Perceptual and scenic qualities				
Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to solar PV development, since solar panels may be perceived as intrusive. Landscapes which are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive and have lower landscape potential. Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Solar PV development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure. Landscapes that have a high scenic quality (including those within the Mendips AONB, Cotswolds AONB and City of Bath WHS and its setting) will be more sensitive and therefore have low landscape potential for accommodating development. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, AONB Management Plans and noted from fieldwork.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some may be within AONB / WHS. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Most or all maybe be designated as AONB / WHS. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. All or the vast majority is designated for its scenic qualities. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.

Table 2.6: Criteria and guidance for assessing landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)				
A flat or gently sloping landform is likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development (and therefore have greater landscape potential) than a landscape with a dramatic rugged landform, distinct landform features (including prominent hills and valleys) or pronounced undulations. Larger scale landforms are likely to be less sensitive than smaller scale landforms - because turbines may appear out of scale, detract from visually important landforms or appear visually confusing (due to turbines being at varying heights) in the latter types of landscapes. Landscapes with frequent human scale features[11], such as settlements, farmsteads, small farm woodlands, trees and hedges may be particularly sensitive to larger turbines. This is because large features such as wind turbines may dominate smaller scale features within the landscape.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau with few/no human-scale features; often a larger scale landform.	A simple gently rolling landscape with occasional human-scale features such as trees and domestic buildings; likely to be a medium-large scale landform.	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes.	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may contain prominent, visible slopes and frequent human-scale features.	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform often with a dense distribution of human-scale features, such as woodland. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)				
Simple, regular landscapes with extensive areas of consistent land cover are likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development than landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller and / or irregular field sizes. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating wind energy development.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
An open, continuous landscape with uniform land cover, or an urban or 'brownfield' landscape.	A landscape of large open fields of modern enclosure, with little variety in land cover. A landscape which contains areas of brownfield sites or urban influences.	A landscape with medium sized fields (or a mix of modern and historic enclosure) and some variations in land cover. A rural landscape which may contain some brownfield sites or urban influences	A landscape with irregular or small-scale fields and a variety in land cover. A rural landscape, perhaps with some areas of semi-natural land cover.	A landscape with a strong variety in land cover, complex field patterns and / or semi-natural land cover. The field pattern may be characterised by small-scale, ancient fields.

[11] Human scale features are aspects of land cover such as stone walls, hedges, buildings which give a 'human scale' to the landscape.

Historic landscape character				
Landscapes which contain important archaeological or historic features or historic associations are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to wind energy development (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Historical features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, areas of buried archaeology, historic designed landscapes such as the City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS) and its setting, or buildings/structures designated for their historical significance. Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historical feature or landscapes may also have higher sensitivity to wind energy development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating wind energy developments.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the character of the area, and little time depth (i.e. large intensively farmed fields).	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the character area and some time-depth.	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to character, and a variety of time depths.	A landscape with many historic features important to the area and a strong sense of time depth.	A landscape with a high density of historic features (many designations) important to the character of the area and great time depth (all may be within the WHS).
Visual character (including skylines)				
The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to wind development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than a landscape with limited visibility (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Landscapes which have important visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area (which may be a designated landscape such as the WHS), are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another. Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development (and therefore have a lower landscape potential) because turbines may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons or existing turbines, the addition of turbines of a different scale may lead to visual confusion. Therefore, the presence of existing development cannot always assume a lower sensitivity to new development.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline.	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features on the skyline – other skylines in adjacent LCTs may be more prominent.	A landscape which has some inter-visibility with neighbouring areas, and/or where relationships between adjacent landscapes are of more importance. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline.	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. It or the landscape(s) it is visible from is designated as AONB or part of the WHS / WHS setting. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines.

Perceptual and scenic qualities				
Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to wind energy, since turbines may be perceived as intrusive. Landscapes which are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive (and have lower landscape potential). Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Wind energy development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure. Landscapes that have a high scenic quality (including those within the Cotswolds AONB or Mendip Hills AONB and City of Bath World Heritage Site or its setting) will be more sensitive and therefore have low landscape potential for accommodating development. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, AONB Management Plans and noted from fieldwork.				
Low	**Low-Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate-High**	**High**
A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some may be within AONB/WHS. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Most or all maybe be designated as AONB/WHS. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. All or the vast majority is designated for its scenic qualities. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.

Chapter 3
Landscape Sensitivity Assessments for Renewable Energy Developments: Results

This chapter presents the overall results of the assessment

3.1 The LCTs within B&NES often contain areas of higher and lower landscape potential that vary from the overall scores. **It is therefore very important to take note of the content of the individual assessment profiles,** including any commentary which highlights areas which could be more sensitive to solar PV or wind energy developments.

3.2 The overall results of the landscape capacity assessment are set out in **Tables 3.1 and 3.2.**

3.3 **Figures 3.1 to 3.4** present a spatial representation of the landscape potential of B&NES to accommodate new solar PV development (by the four different size bandings). These are followed by **Figures 3.5 to 3.9** for wind energy.

3.4 These maps should always be referred to alongside the individual assessment profiles which set out the scores and reasonings behind them.

Table 3.1: Landscape potential scores to new solar PV developments

LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to solar PV development			
		BAND A (≤5ha)	BAND B (>5 to 10ha)	BAND C (>10 to 15ha)	BAND D (>15 to 30ha)
LCT 1: Settled River Valleys & SORV: Settled River Valleys	1a: Avon Valley	1	2	5	5
	SORV1: River Avon Valley West & Kelston Park	3	4	5	5
	Areas of 1a within the Cotswolds AONB	3	4	5	5
LCT 2: Rolling Valley Farmland	2a: Upper Chew & Yeo Valleys and Chew Valley Lake	2	3	4	5
	2b: Chew Valley	2	3	4	5
	Areas of 2a and 2b within the Cotswolds or Mendip Hills AONB	2	4	5	5
LCT 3: Enclosed Valleys & ELV: Enclosed Limestone Valleys	3a: Cam Brook Valley	2	4	4	5
	3b: Wellow Brook Valley	2	4	4	5
	Areas of 3a and 3b within the Cotswolds AONB	4	4	5	5
	3c: Frome Valley (Freshford to Iford)	4	4	5	5
	3d: St Catherine's Valley	4	4	5	5
	3e: Stockwood Vale & Charlton Bottom	2	4	4	5
	ELV1: Weston Valley	4	5	5	5
	ELV2: Lam Brook Valley	4	4	5	5
	ELV3: Northend & St. Catherine's Valley	4	4	5	5
	ELV4: Lower By Brook Valley	4	4	5	5
	ELV5: River Avon Valley & Tributary Confluences	3	4	5	5
	Areas of ELV5 within the Cotswolds AONB	4	4	5	5
	ELV6: Bathampton & Limpley Stoke Valley	4	4	5	5
	ELV7: Perrymead & Lyncombe	4	5	5	5
	ELV8: Cam & Midford Brook Valley	4	4	5	5

LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to solar PV development			
		BAND A (≤5ha)	BAND B (>5 to 10ha)	BAND C (>10 to 15ha)	BAND D (>15 to 30ha)
LCT 4: Limestone Gorges	4a: Bickley Wood Gorge	3	5	5	5
LCT 5: Limestone Plateaux & Brook Valleys & EPV: Eroded Plateau and Valleys	5a: Hinton Blewett	2	2	3	4
	Areas of 5a within the Mendip Hills AONB	2	2	5	5
	5b: Farmborough	2	2	3	4
	EPV1: Newton and Corston Brook Valleys	3	4	5	5
LCT 6: Limestone Plateaux & LLP: Low Limestone Plateau	6a: Thrubwell Farm Plateau	2	2	3	5
	6b: Hinton Charterhouse & Baggeridge Plateau	2	2	4	5
	Areas of 6b within the Cotswolds AONB	3	5	5	5
	LLP1: Hinton Charterhouse Plateau	3	5	5	5
LCT 7: Hills & Ridges	7a: Nempnett Thrubwell	2	4	5	5
	7b: Dundry Hill & Maes Knoll	2	4	5	5
	7c: Peasedown St John Ridge	2	4	5	5
	Areas of 7c in the Cotswolds AONB	4	4	5	5
LCT 8: Escarpments & Slopes & ESC: Escarpment	8a: North Stoke Scarp	3	4	5	5
	8b: Mendip Slopes	3	4	5	5
	ESC1: Dean Hill to Prospect Stile	4	5	5	5
LCT 9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe	9a: Hicks Gate	1	2	3	4
	9b: Whitchurch Farmland	1	2	3	4
	9c: Farrington Gurney Farmland	1	2	3	4
	9d: Norton Radstock Southern Farmlands	1	2	3	4
LCT 10: Levels	10a: Hollow Marsh	1	2	4	5

LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to solar PV development			
		BAND A (≤5ha)	BAND B (>5 to 10ha)	BAND C (>10 to 15ha)	BAND D (>15 to 30ha)
HWDS: High Wold Dip Slope	HWDS1: Lansdown Plateau	3	3	4	5
	HWDS2: Charmy Down	3	4	4	5
	HWDS2: Little Solsbury Hill	5	5	5	5
	HWDS3: Bannerdown and The Rocks	3	4	4	5
	HWDS4: Claverton and Bathampton Downs	5	5	5	5
	HWDS5: Sulis Manor	3	4	4	5

Table 3.2: Landscape potential scores to new wind energy developments

LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to wind energy development				
		BAND A (18-25m)	BAND B (26-60m)	BAND C (61-99m)	BAND D (100-120m)	BAND E (121-150m)
LCT 1: Settled River Valleys & SORV: Settled River Valleys	1a: Avon Valley	2	3	5	5	5
	SORV1: River Avon Valley West & Kelston Park	3	5	5	5	5
	Areas of 1a within the Cotswolds AONB	3	5	5	5	5
LCT 2: Rolling Valley Farmland	2a: Upper Chew & Yeo Valleys and Chew Valley Lake	3	4	4	5	5
	2b: Chew Valley	3	4	4	5	5
	Areas of 2a and 2b within the Cotswolds or Mendip Hills AONB	4	4	5	5	5
LCT 3: Enclosed Valleys & ELV: Enclosed Limestone Valleys	3a: Cam Brook Valley	3	4	5	5	5
	3b: Wellow Brook Valley	3	4	5	5	5
	Areas of 3a and 3b within the Cotswolds AONB	4	5	5	5	5
	3c: Frome Valley (Freshford to Iford)	4	5	5	5	5
	3d: St Catherine's Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	3e: Stockwood Vale & Charlton Bottom	3	4	5	5	5
	ELV1: Weston Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV2: Lam Brook Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV3: Northend & St. Catherine's Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV4: Lower By Brook Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV5: River Avon Valley & Tributary Confluences	3	4	5	5	5
	Areas of ELV5 within the Cotswolds AONB and City of Bath WHS	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV6: Bathampton & Limpley Stoke Valley	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV7: Perrymead & Lyncombe	4	5	5	5	5
	ELV8: Cam & Midford Brook Valley	4	5	5	5	5

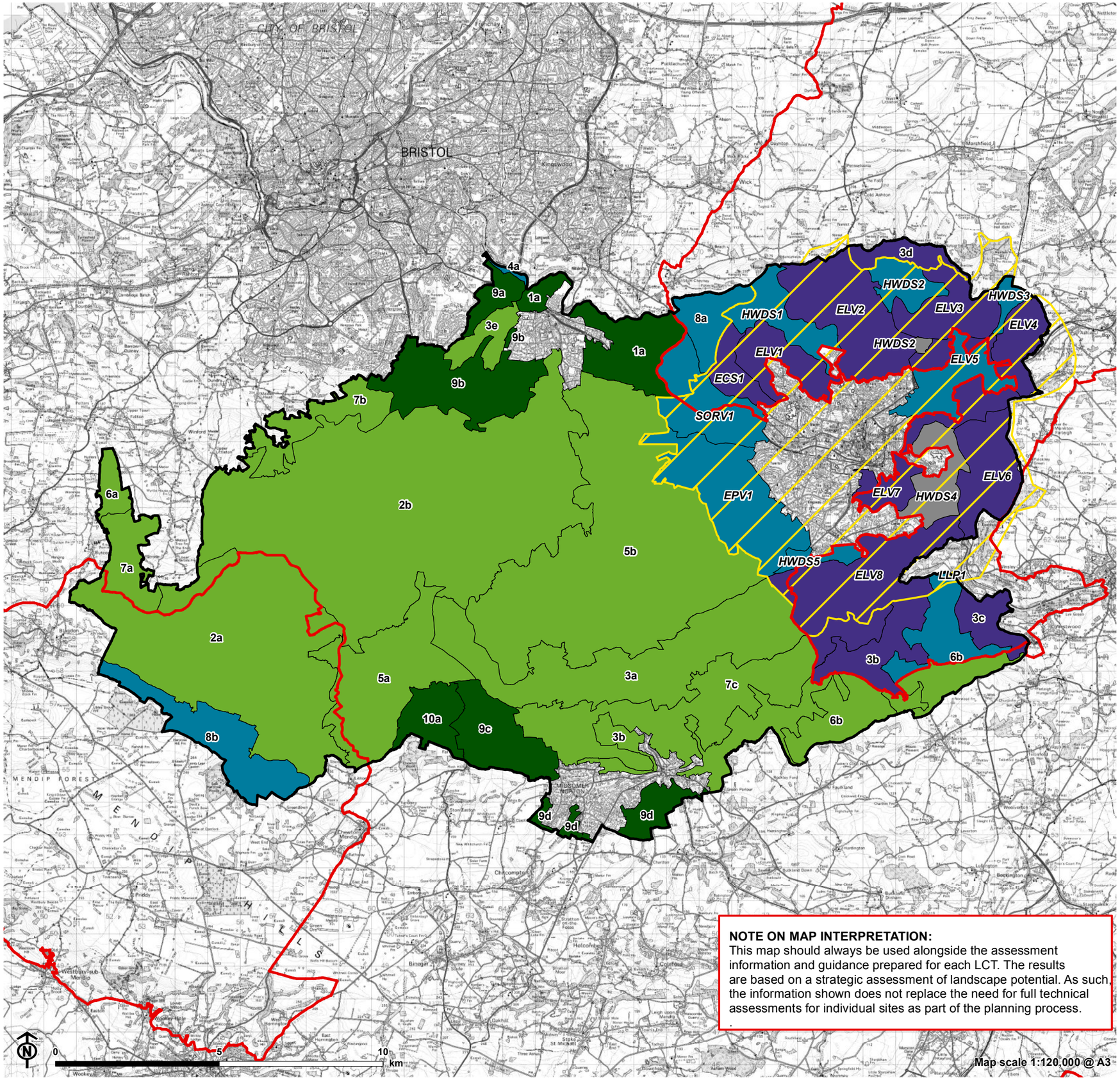
LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to wind energy development				
		BAND A (18-25m)	BAND B (26-60m)	BAND C (61-99m)	BAND D (100-120m)	BAND E (121-150m)
LCT 4: Limestone Gorges	4a: Bickley Wood Gorge	4	5	5	5	5
LCT 5: Limestone Plateaux & Brook Valleys & EPV: Eroded Plateau and Valleys	5a: Hinton Blewett	1	2	3	4	5
	Areas of 5a within the Mendip Hills AONB	4	5	5	5	5
	5b: Farmborough	1	2	3	4	5
	EPV1: Newton and Corston Brook Valleys	4	5	5	5	5
LCT 6: Limestone Plateaux & LLP: Low Limestone Plateau	6a: Thrubwell Farm Plateau	2	2	4	5	5
	6b: Hinton Charterhouse & Baggeridge Plateau	2	3	4	5	5
	Areas of 6b within the Cotswolds AONB	4	5	5	5	5
	LLP1: Hinton Charterhouse Plateau	4	5	5	5	5
LCT 7: Hills & Ridges	7a: Nempnett Thrubwell	2	2	4	5	5
	7b: Dundry Hill & Maes Knoll	2	2	4	5	5
	7c: Peasedown St John Ridge	1	2	3	4	5
	Areas of 7a within the Mendip Hills AONB and areas of 7c in the Cotswolds AONB	3	4	5	5	5
LCT 8: Escarpments & Slopes & ESC: Escarpment	8a: North Stoke Scarp	4	5	5	5	5
	8b: Mendip Slopes	4	5	5	5	5
	ESC1: Dean Hill to Prospect Stile	5	5	5	5	5
LCT 9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe	9a: Hicks Gate	1	2	4	5	5
	9b: Whitchurch Farmland	1	2	3	4	5
	9c: Farrington Gurney Farmland	1	2	3	4	5
	9d: Norton Radstock Southern Farmlands (east)	1	2	3	4	5
	9d: Norton Radstock Southern Farmlands (west)	1	2	4	5	5
LCT 10: Levels	10a: Hollow Marsh	2	3	4	5	5

LCT	LCA	Landscape potential to wind energy development				
		BAND A (18-25m)	BAND B (26-60m)	BAND C (61-99m)	BAND D (100-120m)	BAND E (121-150m)
HWDS: High Wold Dip Slope	HWDS1: Lansdown Plateau	3	4	5	5	5
	HWDS2: Charmy Down	3	4	5	5	5
	HWDS2: Little Solsbury Hill	5	5	5	5	5
	HWDS3: Bannerdown and The Rocks	3	4	5	5	5
	HWDS4: Claverton and Bathampton Downs	5	5	5	5	5
	HWDS5: Sulis Manor	3	4	5	5	5

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.1: Landscape potential for future Band A (<5ha) solar energy development



NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
This map should always be used alongside the assessment information and guidance prepared for each LCT. The results are based on a strategic assessment of landscape potential. As such, the information shown does not replace the need for full technical assessments for individual sites as part of the planning process.
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Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new solar PV developments (Band A)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_1_11290_r0_Solar_Opportunity_Band_A_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

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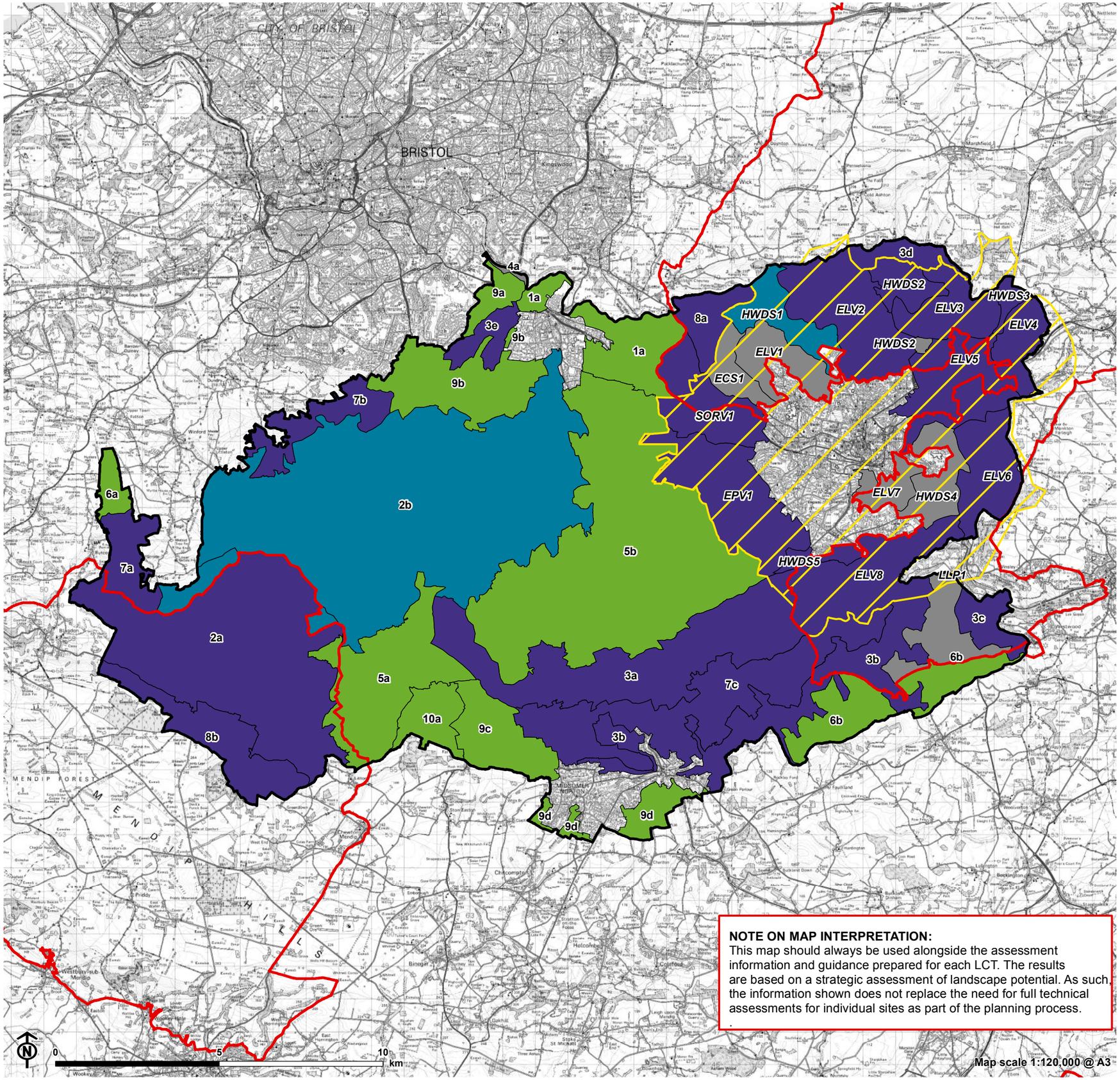
Figure 3.2: Landscape potential for future Band B (5-10ha) solar energy development



B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new solar PV developments (Band B)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
This map should always be used alongside the assessment information and guidance prepared for each LCT. The results are based on a strategic assessment of landscape potential. As such, the information shown does not replace the need for full technical assessments for individual sites as part of the planning process.
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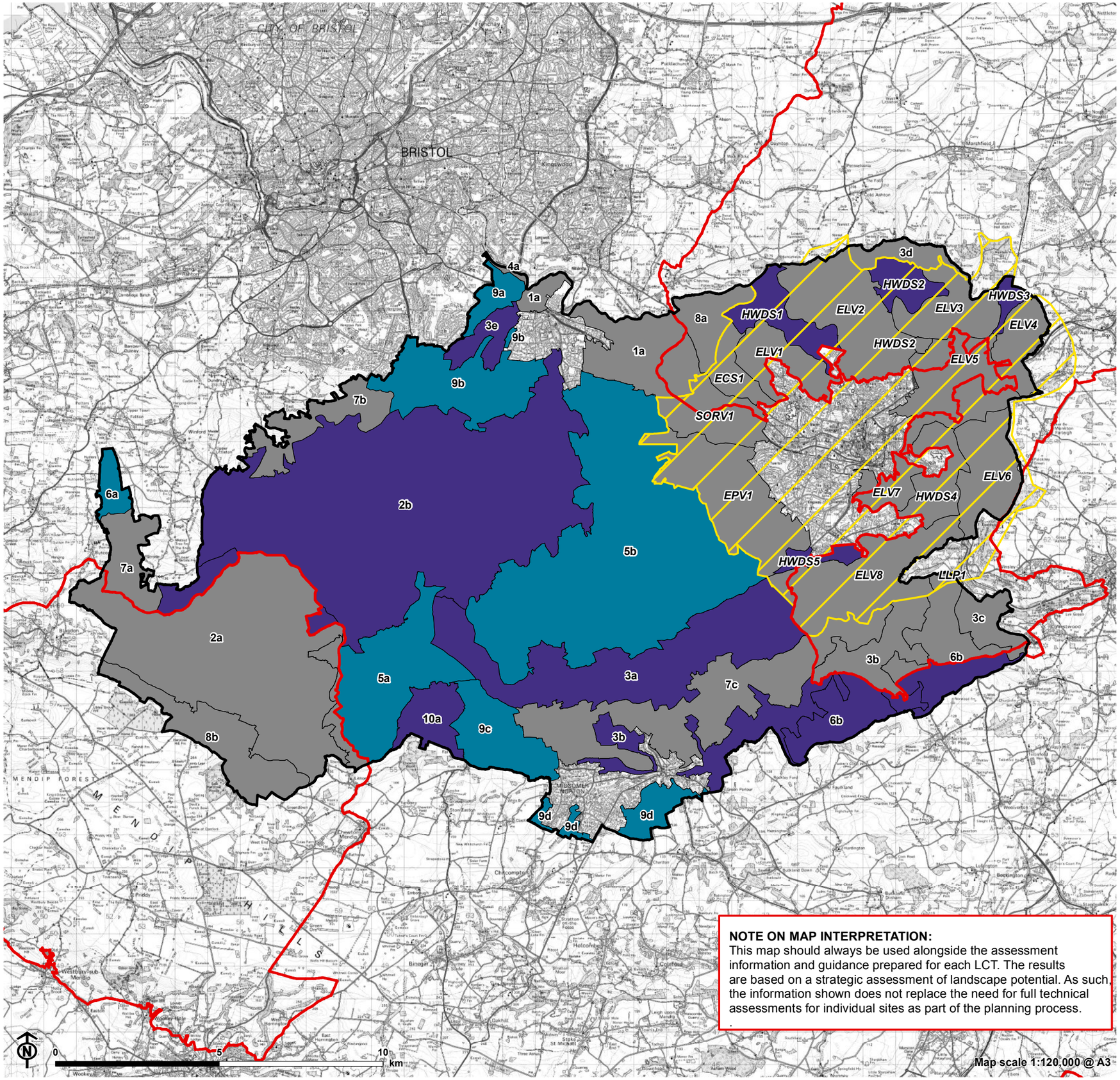
Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_2_11290_r0_Solar_Opportunity_Band_B_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

LUC

Figure 3.3: Landscape potential for future Band C (10-15ha) solar energy development



NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
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Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new solar PV developments (Band C)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_3_11290_r0_Solar_Opportunity_Band_C_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.4: Landscape potential for future Band D (15-30ha) solar energy development

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new solar PV developments (Band D)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
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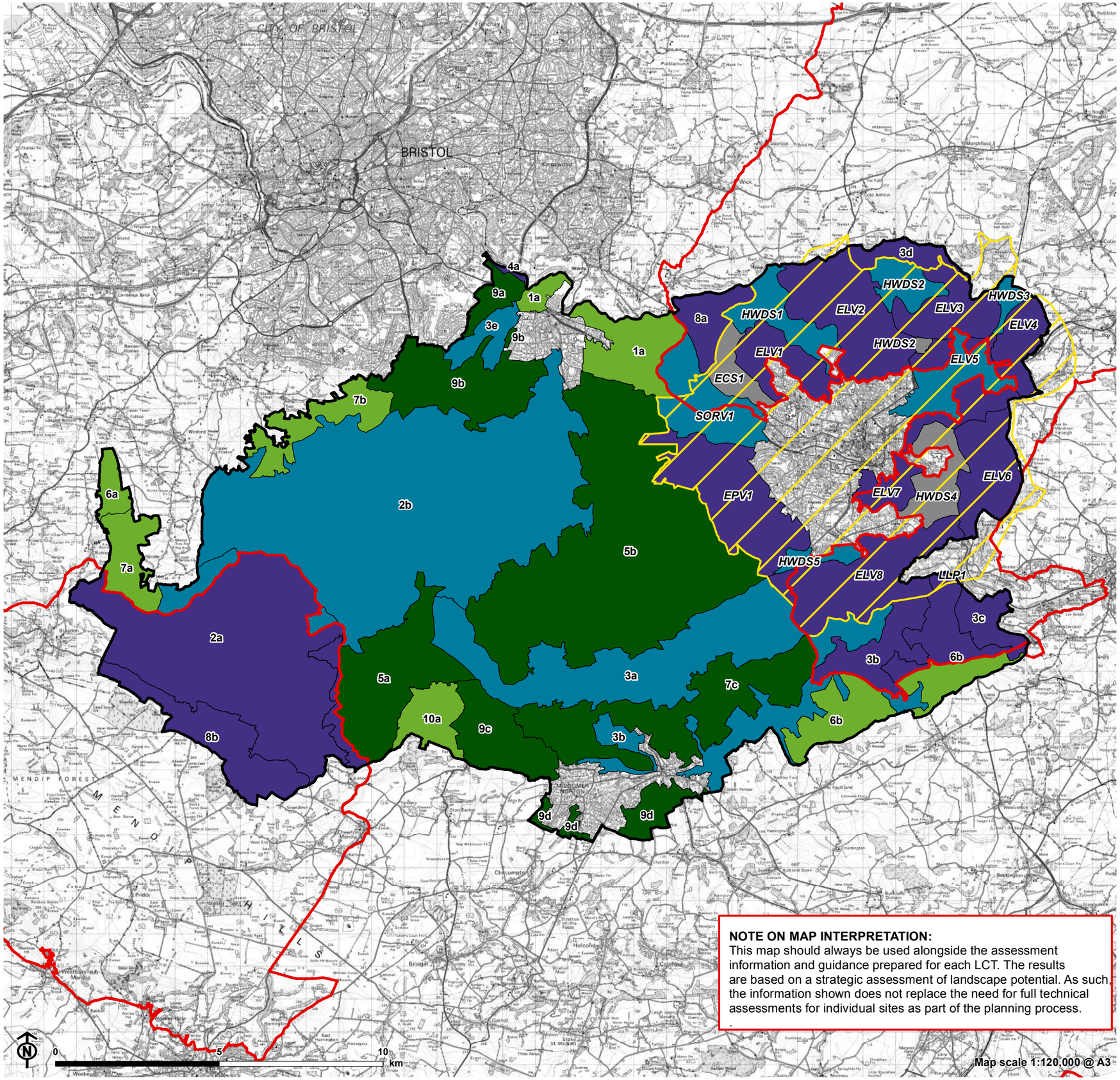
0 5 10 km

Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_4_11290_r0_Solar_Opportunity_Band_D_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

LUC

Figure 3.5: Landscape potential for future Band A (18-25m) wind energy development



NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
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Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new wind developments (Band A)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

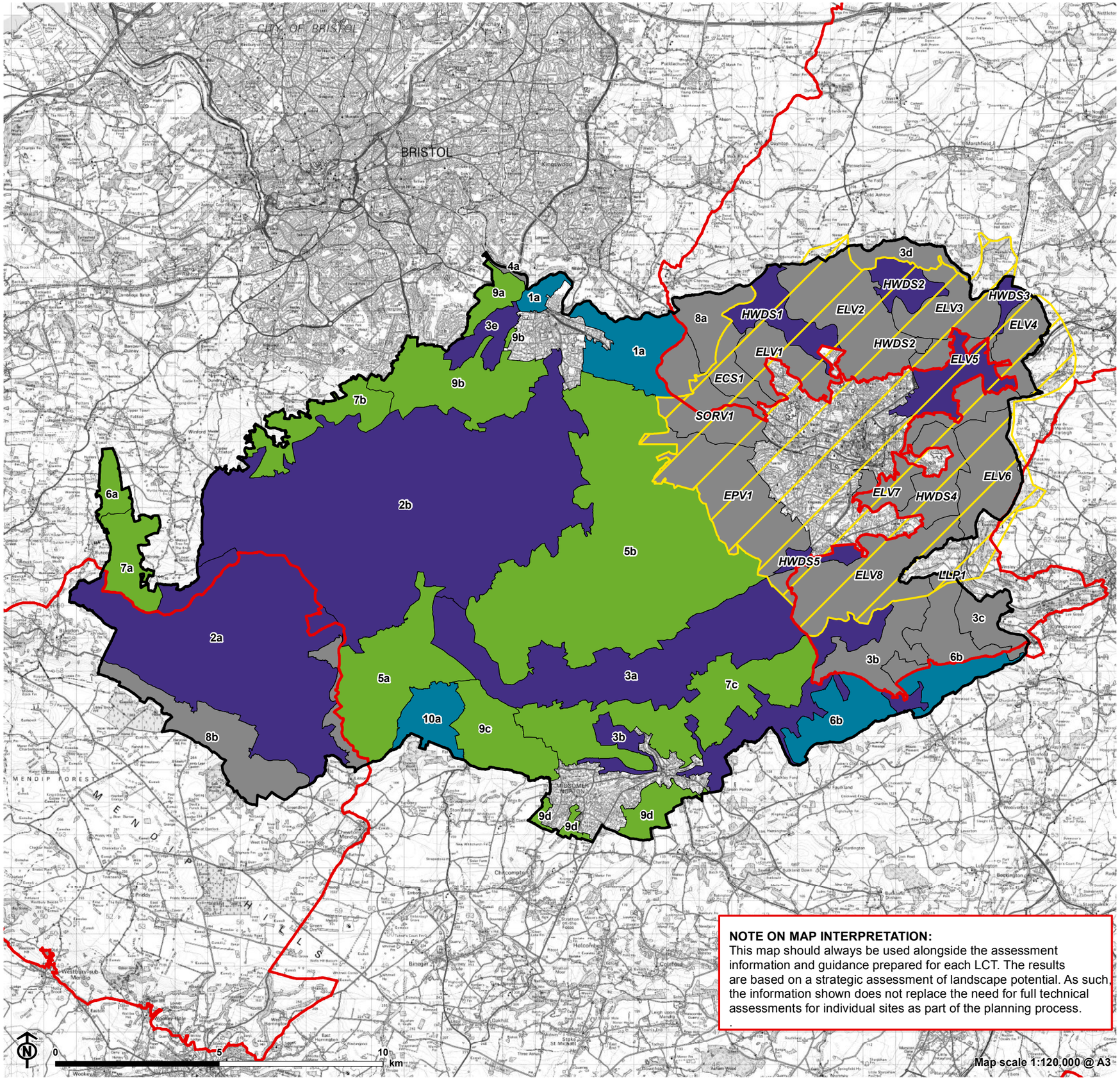
Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_5_11290_r0_Wind_Opportunity_Band_A_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

LUC

Figure 3.6: Landscape potential for future Band B (26-60m) wind energy development



B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new wind developments (Band B)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

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CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_6_11290_r0_Wind_Opportunity_Band_B_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

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Figure 3.7: Landscape potential for future Band C (61-99m) wind energy development

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new wind developments (Band C)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
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Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_7_11290_r0_Wind_Opportunity_Band_C_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.8: Landscape potential for future Band D (100-120m) wind energy development

B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new wind developments (Band D)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
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.

0 5 10 km

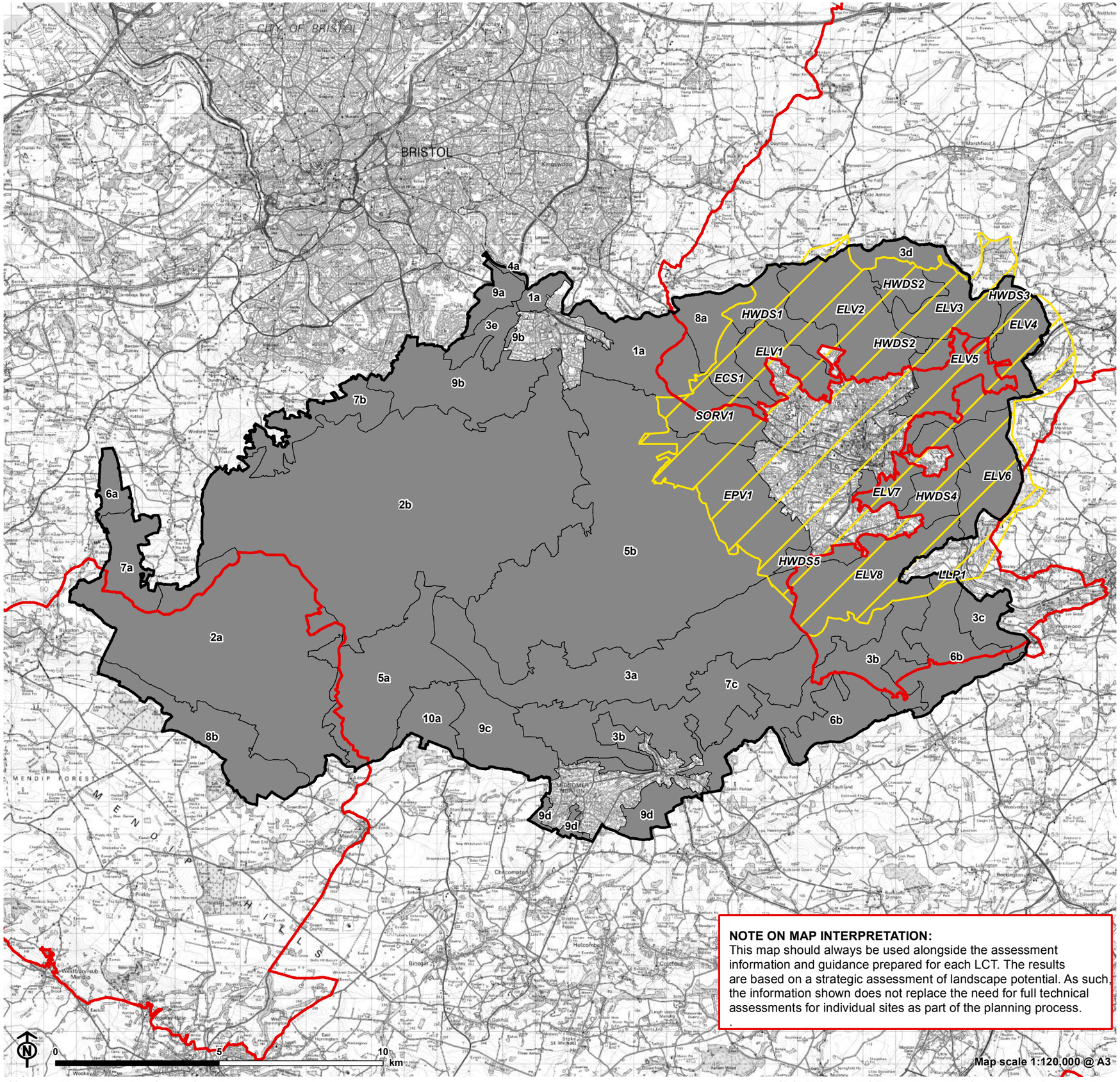
Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_8_11290_r0_Wind_Opportunity_Band_D_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Renewable Energy Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.9: Landscape potential for future Band E (121-150m) wind energy development



B&NES boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Indicative World Heritage Site setting

Landscape potential to new wind developments (Band E)

5 (Low potential)
4 (Low - Moderate potential)
3 (Moderate potential)
2 (Moderate - High potential)
1 (High potential)

Landscape Character Types (B&NES 2021 / Bathscape 2017)

1: Settled River Valleys / SORV
2: Rolling Valley Farmland
3: Enclosed Valleys / ELV
4: Limestone Gorges
5: Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys / EPV
6: Limestone Plateaux / LLP
7: Hills and Ridges
8: Escarpments and Slopes / ESC
9: Open Farmland and Urban Fringe
10: Levels
HWDS - High Wold Dip Slope

NOTE ON MAP INTERPRETATION:
This map should always be used alongside the assessment information and guidance prepared for each LCT. The results are based on a strategic assessment of landscape potential. As such, the information shown does not replace the need for full technical assessments for individual sites as part of the planning process.
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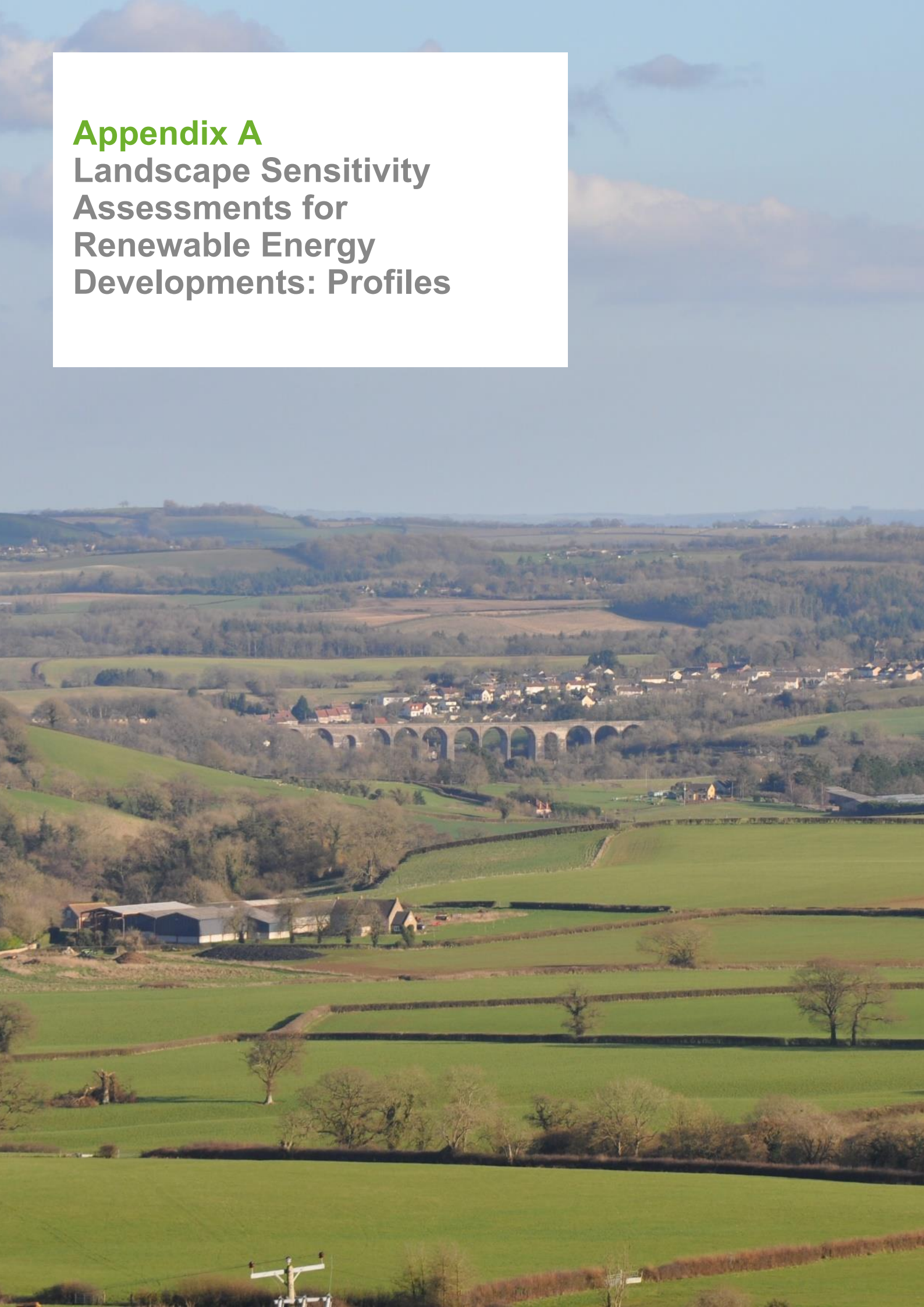
Map scale 1:120,000 @ A3

CB:CB EB:Collins_N LUC Fig3_9_11290_r0_Wind_Opportunity_Band_E_A3L 25/08/2021
Source: B&NES, NE

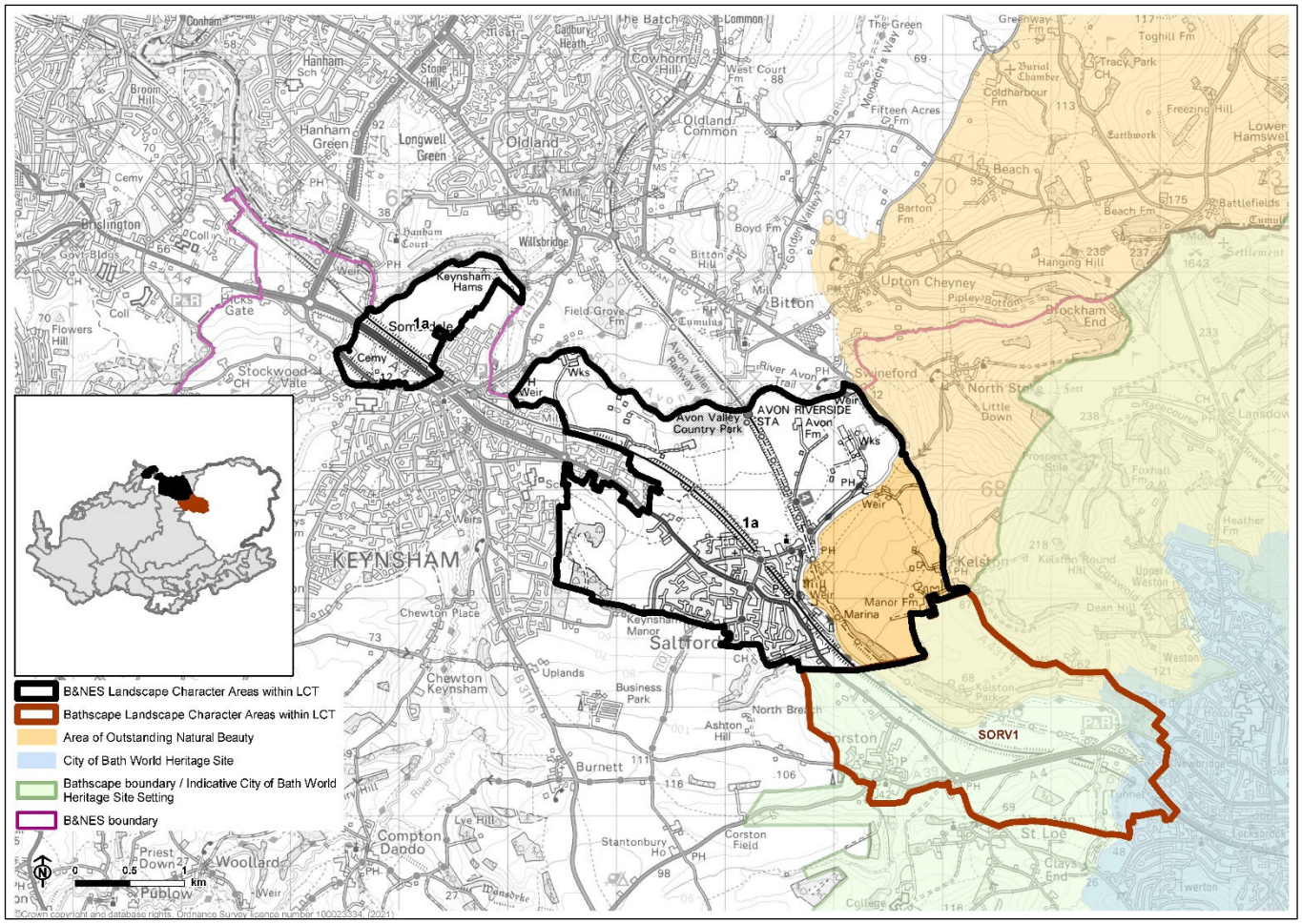
Appendix A

Landscape Sensitivity Assessments for Renewable Energy Developments: Profiles

This appendix presents the assessment profiles for each LCT within B&NES.



Appendix A
Landscape Sensitivity Assessments for Renewable Energy Developments: Profiles



Kelston Mill and Wier near Salford, with views to Kelston Round Hill.

Flat horse pasture to the north of Saltford.

View from near Corston across the river valley towards Kelston Park showing the steep northern valley slopes.

Long views east from a footpath to the east of Saltford to the elevated skyline of the Cotswolds including Kelston Round Hill (outside the LCA).

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A predominantly large-scale landscape, comprising the broad open valley of the River Avon, which meanders across a flat valley floor. ■ Valley sides range from gentle slopes to steep river cliffs where they abut the AONB escarpment. ■ Embankments carrying the mainline railway and parts of the disused railway line across the floodplain, isolate and enclose sections of the valley floor. ■ A varied field pattern of larger floodplain fields and smaller fields on settlement edges and slopes. ■ Human scale features are limited to hedges with hedgerow trees, stone walls, isolated farms and buildings and goalposts associated with sports pitches.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Arable land dominates in the south-east of the LCT and to the north of Saltford, elsewhere pasture grassland is common with localised areas of horticulture and horsiculture. ■ A simple field pattern of angular fields enclosed by post and wire fences or hedgerows with scattered trees and occasional stone walls near settlements. ■ There are significant areas of historic parkland, particularly at Kelston Park, with mature in-field trees. ■ Linear woodlands (some notified as LNRs) characterise the steeper valley slopes, the course of the Avon and the disused and mainline railway. Tenants Wood and Kelston Park Wood are ancient woodlands. ■ Semi-natural habitats include small areas of floodplain grazing marsh (Keynsham Ham and Broad Mead), patches of lowland calcareous grassland on steeper slopes and scattered traditional orchards, many are SNCIs. The course of the River Avon is also identified as a SNCI. ■ SSSIs designated for their geological interest include Stidham Farm and Newton St Loe. ■ The adjacent urban areas of Keynsham and Bath exert a strong influence on the landscape of the LCT. ■ Settlement includes isolated farms and the villages of Kelston and Corston on the valley slopes. Saltford is a predominantly 20th century settlement which has expanded from a historic core. ■ A busy transport corridor with the Bristol to London mainline railway and the A4 Bristol to Bath road. ■ Light industrial land use includes a sewage works at Saltford Mead. Sports pitches surround settlements and border the A4.
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC indicates that areas of *piecemeal enclosure of early strip fields* and *meadowland* along the river were enclosed in the medieval to late medieval period. ■ The south-eastern edge of the LCT lies within the City of Bath WHS, whilst the elevated land between Corston and Saltford is part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS. ■ Kelston Park RPG (grade II) with mansion (grade II*) descends a steep escarpment towards the River Avon and a small part of Newton Park RPG (grade II*) also extends into the LCT. ■ Nationally designated historic features include the site of a Roman settlement and Old Brass Mill, both Scheduled Monuments. ■ Conservation areas protect the historic parts of Saltford, Kelston, Corston and the edge of Bath, containing a high concentration of listed buildings. ■ The River Avon is a historic transport route, made navigable in 1727, and historic mills and locks along its course (including the grade II* listed Old Brass Mill and Kelston Mills) are a testament to the industrial history of river.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ Views extend across the wide valley floor to the valley sides. There are strong visual links north and east to the escarpments in the Cotswolds AONB, including the distinctive skylines of Kelston Round Hill and Lansdown. ■ Parts of the LCT provide a rural setting of the City of Bath WHS and key viewpoints within it. ■ From elevated parts of the valley slopes around Kelston there are strong visual links to the countryside to the south of the LCT. ■ Views on the valley floor are occasionally restricted by adjoining settlements, tall hedges, trees or the railway embankment. ■ Skylines are often undeveloped, making mature trees important elements. ■ The former Cadbury factory in the north of Keynsham is an important landmark in views.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The area north and east of the Avon falls within the Cotswold AONB and shares many of its special qualities such as the strong rural character, long-distance views and historic parklands. ■ There is relative sense of tranquillity away from the settlements and disturbance from the major transport routes (including the A4 and the railway line).

	■ Industrial development, urban fringe land use and modern settlement can reduce the integrity of more rural features. ■ Popular recreational routes include the Bristol and Bath Railway Path and the River Avon Trail. ■ Areas to the east and north-west of Keynsham, and much of LCA SORV1 are identified as important to the setting of Keynsham and Bath respectively.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The flat landform with large scale fields on the valley floor and enclosure provided by embankments, hedgerows and linear woodlands, could indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments. However, areas with historic field patterns, the open character of the valley due to limited woodland cover, areas with semi-natural habitats (including ancient woodland), and historic parkland increase sensitivity. The location of much of the east of the LCT within the Cotswolds AONB and/or City of Bath WHS setting, as well as strong visual links with the Cotswolds escarpments and the City of Bath WHS further increase sensitivity.

Areas on the valley floor, already influenced by development may present some opportunities to accommodate small (Band A and B) solar PV developments, particularly where appropriate screening is provided by hedgerows or embankments, most notably in the north-west of the LCT around Keynsham.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas within by the Cotswolds AONB, or within the City of Bath WHS or its setting, would have high sensitivity to solar PV developments.

LCA SORV1 has a high sensitivity to solar PV developments as it is lies within the setting of the City of Bath WHS (with areas to the east of the LCA within the WHS itself). Much of the area also lies within the Cotswolds AONB (north of the River Avon) or is overlooked by it. Sensitivity is also increased by the historic parkland at Kelston Park RPG and the setting the landscape provides to Newton Park RPG. As a result, the area only has limited potential for carefully sited small solar PV schemes (Band A).

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The flat landform with large scale fields on the valley floor, and presence of human development, particularly around settlements, could indicate lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, areas with historic field patterns, human-scale features (such as hedgerows and stone walls), areas of semi-natural habitats (including riparian woodland and ancient woodland), and historic parkland and settlements increase sensitivity. The setting provided by the landscape to the City of Bath WHS, and strong visual links with the Cotswolds AONB and the City of Bath WHS, all increase the sensitivity of this landscape to wind energy development.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas within by the Cotswolds AONB or the City of Bath WHS or its setting would have a higher sensitivity to wind energy developments.

LCA SORV1 has a high sensitivity to wind energy developments as it lies within the setting of the City of Bath WHS (with areas to the east of the LCA within the WHS itself). It is also identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) noted as being important to the landscape setting of Bath. Much of the area is also within the Cotswolds AONB (north of the River Avon) or is overlooked by it. Sensitivity is also increased by the historic parkland at Kelston Park RPG and the setting the landscape provides to Newton Park RPG. As a result, the area only has limited potential for carefully sited small (Band A) wind energy developments.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)	1				
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscapes LCA SORV1 and LCA 1a (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)		2			
BAND B (26-60m)			3		
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121 – 150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscapes LCA SORV1 and LCA 1a (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)			3		
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121 – 150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including Band B) to be sited in the flat farmed fields of the valley floor, where screening is provided by hedgerows, occasional woodlands, tree lines and/ or embankments.
- It is unlikely that larger scale developments (Band C or above) could be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, due to field size and semi-natural habitats.
- No new solar PV development should be sited in areas identified as visually important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS, or within the City of Bath WHS itself.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- New solar PV developments should not be sited on the steep valley sides where they abut the Cotswold escarpment, such as the valley slopes below Kelston Park, due to their visual prominence and extensive semi-natural habitats.
- Choose sites on low-lying flat fields, enclosed by hedgerow boundaries, where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character.
- Avoid siting solar development in areas of habitat interest, most notably along the course of the River Avon.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Preserve medieval field patterns along the River Avon by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Consider views from popular public rights of way such as the Bristol and Bath Railway Path and the River Avon Trail when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Maintain and where possible enhance the hedgerows, linear woodland and occasional copses that provide both valued habitats in the farmed landscape and will serve to screen solar PV developments and strengthen the local habitat network.
- Protect the rural and tranquil qualities of the landscape away from major roads and ensure new developments do not detract from the traditional agricultural character of the landscape.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB including long-distance views, historic parklands and the strong rural character, and ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Keynsham, Saltford and Bath. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the settlement as well as its locally important character, views and features.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.

Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

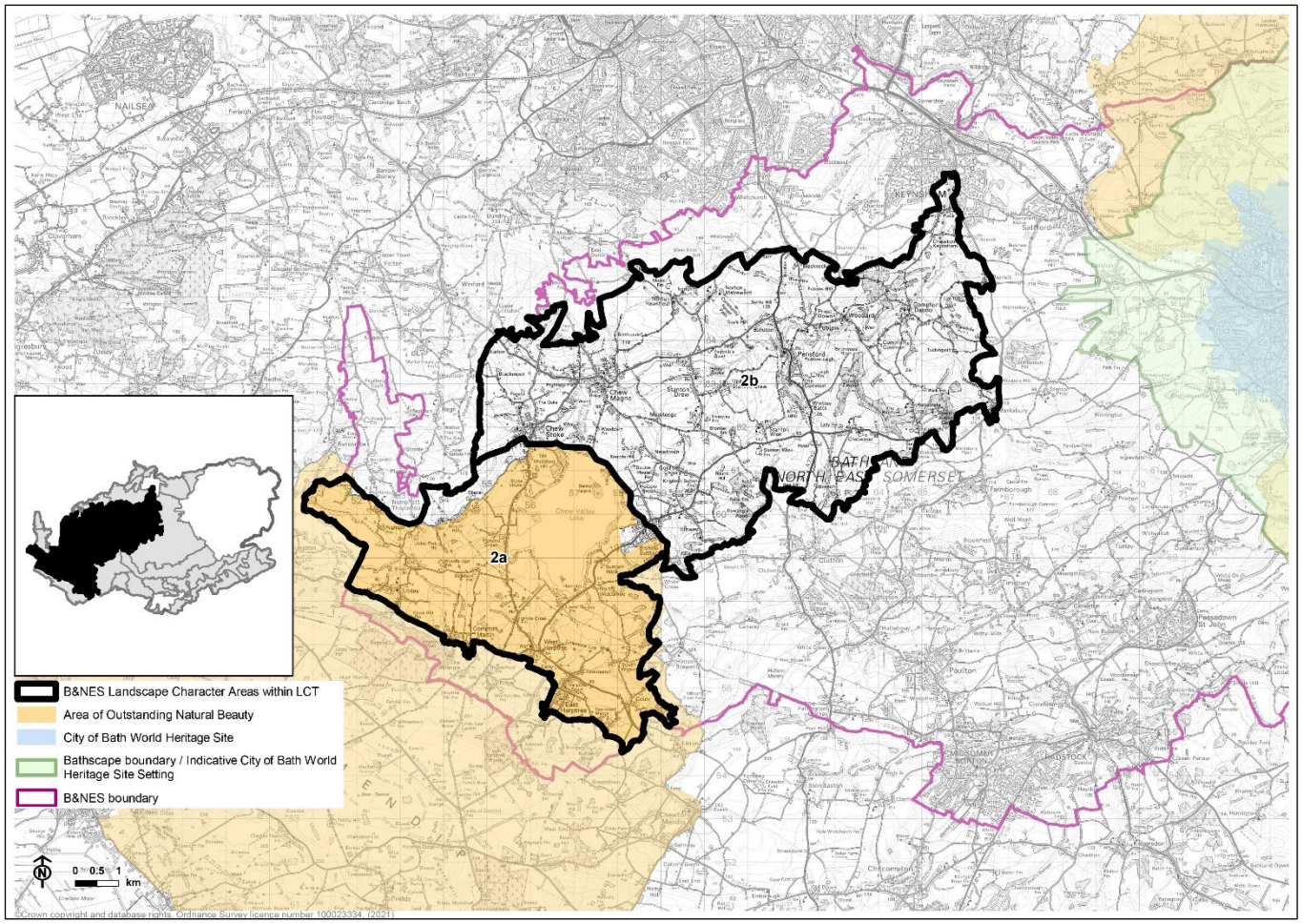
- Single turbines up to the lower end of Band B could be considered within the more open, broad river valley with larger scale arable fields (ensuring the guidance below is followed), although the scattering of turbines should be minimised to avoid significant cumulative impacts on landscape character.

- Some areas along the A4 road corridor and railway line may be able to accommodate turbines up to the lower end of Band B, where levels of tranquillity are comparatively lower than the surrounding landscape and the landscape of a larger scale.
- Due to the sloping and highly visible character of the AONB-designated land to the north-east of the River Avon, it is recommended that no turbines of any banding are located here. Areas within the Bath WHS should also not be considered for wind energy developments.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band C or larger turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Ensure any ancillary features (e.g. buildings and walls) match the local vernacular e.g. using local materials and that features such as tracks do not erode historic field patterns.
- Replace hedgerows and stone walls if they are affected by development.
- Protect mature trees and woodlands from the impacts of development, especially ancient semi-natural woodlands and those associated with historic landscapes.
- Locate turbines in areas of larger scale fields, away from the complex small-scale historic landscapes, such as those along the River Avon.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Keynsham, Saltford and Bath. Ensure any wind developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the settlement as well as its locally important character, views and features.
- Ensure wind energy developments do not detract from distinctive views to and from the escarpments in the Cotswolds AONB, including the distinctive skylines of Kelston Round Hill and Lansdown and seek to protect important views that are integral to the character of the conservation areas of Saltford, Kelston, Corston and the edge of Bath
- Ensure wind energy development is not a detracting feature from the numerous key viewpoints within the Bath WHS
- Ensure wind turbines do not adversely affect the historic qualities of Kelston Park and Newton Park including the integrity of designed views to and from the parks, including distinctive views to the neighbouring Kelston Round Hill.
- Avoid siting turbines within the HLC Types of ‘Park and Gardens', which would be highly vulnerable to wind energy development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. the Bristol and Bath Railway Path and parts of the River Avon Trail) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – aiming for a balanced composition from where development will be visible.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the open character of the valley floor with areas of relative tranquillity that are highly valued for recreational.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB (particularly the open landscape character with long views, drystone walls, historic field patterns, historic parklands and numerous public rights of way) - ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



The prehistoric stone circles at Stanton Drew, with views to elevated land to the north.

View across Chew Valley Lake from Herriotts Bridge, showing the surrounding wetland and woodland habitats.

View from the Prospect Stile Viewpoint showing distinctive regular fields with mature hedgerow trees.

The course of the River Chew near Keynsham in the east showing the gently sloping valley.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A complex landform consisting of the broad undulating valleys of the Chew and Yeo and narrower tributary valleys, including Salter's Brook, Bathford Brook and Molly Brook. ■ The LCT is enclosed by sloping land that rises to meet the more elevated surrounding landscapes, including the prominent Dundry Ridge to the north and the Mendip Hills to the south. ■ Within LCA 2a, the reservoirs of Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon Lake form dominant landscape features. Springs and wells are common. ■ Small-medium scale fields, although trimmed hedgerow boundaries limit the sense of enclosure. ■ The tributary valleys have an intimate quality, enclosed by hedges, trees and the rising topography. ■ Human scale features include trees and small woods, spring-line villages scattered farmsteads, church towers and the mills along the River Chew.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ A landscape of predominantly regular-shaped pasture fields, with some areas of arable crops (to the east of Chew Valley Lake and south of Keynsham) and infrequent areas of horticulture. ■ Fields are enclosed by species-rich hedges with frequent hedgerow trees (predominantly oak and ash). Occasionally these are 'gappy' or supplemented by post and wire fencing. ■ Small deciduous woodlands, willow/ poplar or conifer plantations and tree belts are common. Larger woods are more prevalent in the east (Hunstrete Plantation, Common Wood, Lord's Wood and Wooscombe Wood). ■ The lakes and their surrounding wetland and grassland habitats are of ecological significance, with both lakes designated SSSI, SPA/SAC. ■ Notable areas of lowland grasslands and meadow Priority Habitats occur, as well as some traditional orchards concentrated around villages. ■ A reasonably well-settled area of small, traditional, spring line and riverside villages. Larger villages include Chew Stoke, Chew Magna, Pensford and Bishop Sutton. ■ The area is well served by a network of winding minor roads, including some sunken lanes. ■ Some larger A and B roads also cross the area including the A37 and A368.
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC indicates most fields are 'piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields' of late medieval to 19th century origin, with medieval or earlier *floodplain and meadow* following the course of the River Chew and less frequent areas of medieval *planned fields, assarts* and *re-organised fields.* ■ Strong time depth, reflected in a frequent scattering of Scheduled Monuments including prehistoric monuments at Stanton Drew, parts of the prehistoric Wansdyke, an early Bronze Age bowl barrow (north of Blagdon lake) and a possibly Iron Age oval enclosure (south of Stowey). ■ Villages are often protected by Conservation Areas, containing large numbers of listed buildings often including churches with landmark towers. ■ Stone bridges, often reflecting the local sandstone limestone geology, can date back to the late medieval period, often designated as Scheduled Monuments. ■ There are several historic parks in LCA 2b, including Stanton Drew, Hunstrete, Stowey House, Sutton Court and Norton Court. ■ Evidence of the area's mining heritage is concentrated around Pensford (LCA 2b), including disused quarries, limekilns and spoil heaps and the route of the disused North Somerset Railway which runs over the Pensford viaduct.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The undulating landform and trimmed hedgerow boundaries allow open views, although some views are restricted by mature hedgerow trees and woodland. ■ There is a strong visual connection to surrounding hills and well-wooded slopes, including the prominent ridgeline of the Mendip Hills AONB to the south. ■ Well-wooded slopes form distinctive skylines. Local skyline features include church towers (notably in LCA 2b), the Pensford viaduct and an obelisk at Breech Hill. ■ A prominent pylon line crosses LCA 2a, intruding into the otherwise undeveloped skyline. ■ Prospect Stile viewpoint on the south-eastern edge of the LCT has extensive views over LCA 2a.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ LCA 2a is within the Mendip Hills AONB, and exhibits the special qualities of the designated landscape, including historic settlements and distinctive hedgerow patterns with hedgerow trees. ■ A peaceful rural landscape, with few detractors except for occasional aircraft (due to proximity of Bristol Airport), localised traffic disturbance from A-roads. ■ The landscape is crossed by a dense network of public rights of way, including Monarch's Way, the Limestone Link, Three Peaks Walk and Two Rivers Way as well as National Cycle route 3 and 410.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The working agricultural landscape of the broad valleys and enclosure provided by the strong hedgerow network and woodlands and existing human development, could indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments. However, the presence of semi-natural habitats, valued cultural heritage feature (including historic parklands and settlements), strong rural qualities and visual prominence of many parts of the landscape (including in views from the AONB), increase sensitivity to larger (Band C and D) solar PV developments.

There may be opportunities to accommodate solar PV developments (up to the lower end of Band C) on flatter ground where visually enclosed by taller hedgerow boundaries, on land bordering existing infrastructure routes including major roads, or in areas visually screened by woodland, most notably in the east.

Areas of sloping landform in this LCT have an increased sensitivity to solar PV development due to their visibility in the wider landscape.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

The majority of LCA 2a lies within the Mendip Hills AONB and is overlooked by the distinctive Mendip Slopes escarpment (LCA 8b, also within the AONB). This area has a high sensitivity to solar PV developments of Band B and above.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The large scale of the broader open valleys and presence of human development, including pylons (in LCA 2a) and A roads could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy developments. However, the more intimate tributary valleys, numerous trees and small woods, valued cultural heritage features (including historic parkland and historic settlements), presence of human scale features, skyline church towers, strong rural qualities and the intervisibility of much of the landscape with the escarpment of the Mendip Hills AONB increase sensitivity to wind energy development.

The human scale and complexity of the landscape would be less affected by small (Band A) scale turbines; therefore, sensitivity decreases for smaller scale turbines.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

The majority of LCA 2a lies within the Mendip Hills AONB and is also overlooked by the distinctive Mendip Slopes escarpment (LCA 8b, also within the AONB). This area has high sensitivity to wind energy developments of Band C or above.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)			3		
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 2a (within the Mendip Hills AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)			3		
BAND B (26-60m)				4	
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100 – 120m)					5
BAND E (121 – 150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 2a (within the Mendip Hills AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)				4	
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100 – 120m)					5
BAND E (121 – 150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new Band A and B solar PV developments to be sited on more gently sloping or flat areas, where screening is provided by the hedgerow network and areas of trees and woodland.
- There may be some (limited) opportunities for smaller Band C developments on the edge of existing road networks where there is already some disturbance to the landscape and trees/hedgerows provide visual enclosure.
- LCA 2a, which is either within or directly overlooked by the Mendip Hills AONB, would only have potential for carefully sited Band A or B solar PV developments due to its landscape sensitivities.
- It is unlikely that any Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A)[1] as being important to the landscape setting of Keynsham as well as the rural setting of Stowey Sutton. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure new development does not negatively impact on the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB, including the widespread historic evidence of human settlement and the characteristic farmed landscape of the Chew and Yeo Valleys with distinctive hedgerow patterns and hedgerow trees, providing interconnected habitats.
- New solar PV developments should not be sited on sloping landform with localised visual prominence. Avoid locating solar PV developments on open upper slopes such as along the southern boundaries of the LCT (particularly south of Bishop Sutton) and the northern valley slopes of the River Chew.
- Choose sites on lower-lying flat fields, enclosed by hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character.
- Locate solar development in sheltered folds in the landscape and in lower-lying areas such as the minor tributary valleys, where it will be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character.
- Avoid siting solar development in areas of habitat interest, most notably surrounding the lakes in LCA 2a, as well as grassland habitats and traditional orchards.
- Preserve historic field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Consider views from popular public rights of way such as Monarch's Way, the Limestone Link paths, Three Peaks Walk and Two Rivers Way, when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back – where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Protect the rural and tranquil qualities of the landscape away from major roads and ensure new developments do not detract from the traditional agricultural character of the landscape.
- Ensure that solar PV developments form part of the mixed farmland mosaic – rather than becoming a dominating land use.
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.

[1] Bath and North East Somerset Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan: District-wide Strategy and Policies (adopted July 2017)

- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

Wind energy developments

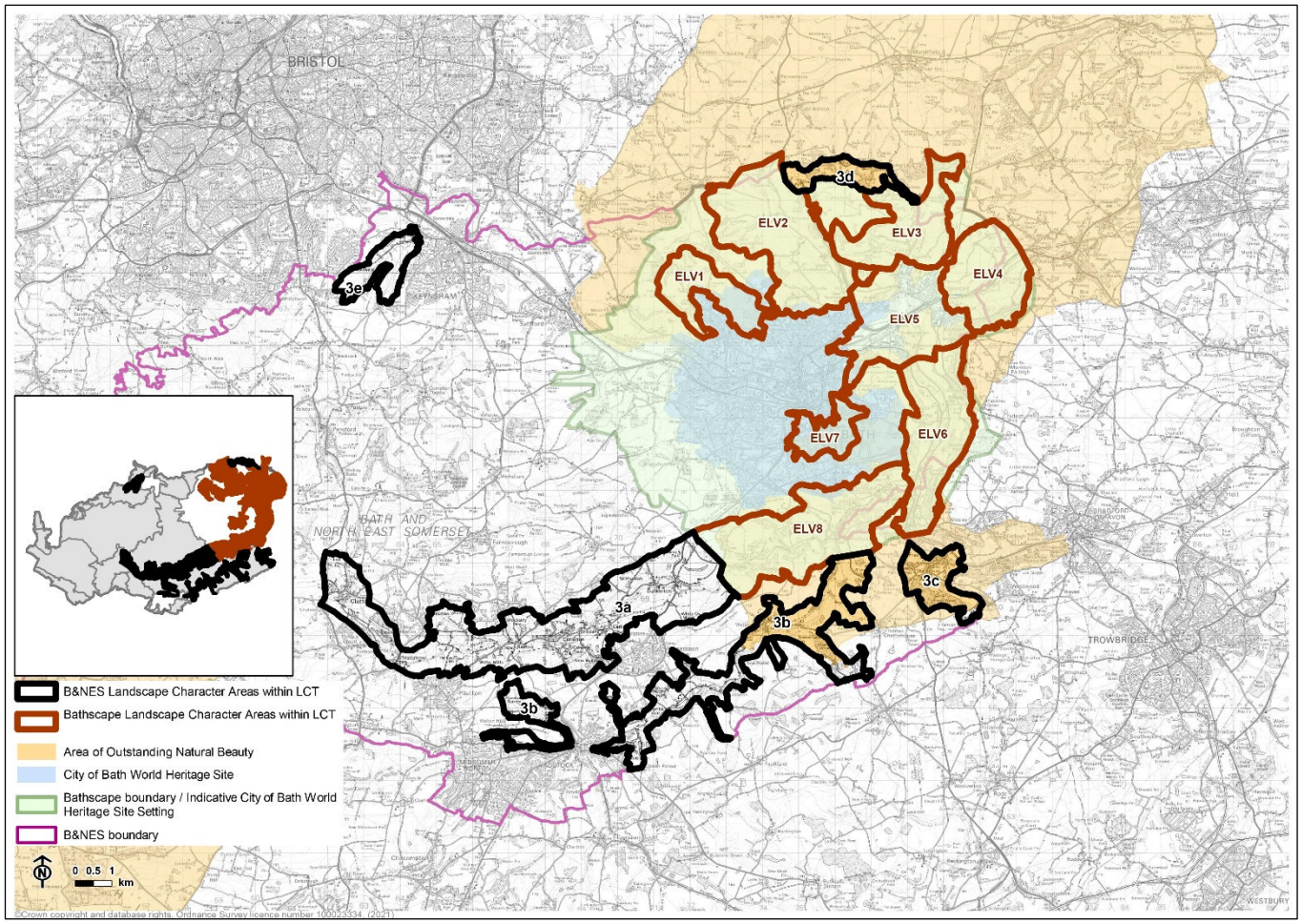
Overall recommendations:

- The strongly undulating agricultural landscape could incorporate turbines of up to Band B, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band D turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Protect the smaller scale tributary valleys which will be particularly sensitive to wind energy developments of any scale.
- Locate larger turbines in areas of larger scale fields, away from small-scale historic landscapes including medieval field patterns, and historic parkland landscapes.
- Ensure tracks associated with development do not damage historic field patterns and ensure minimum disturbance of distinctive hedgerows (particularly those within the Mendip Hills AONB), replacing any hedges and hedgerow trees affected by development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints (e.g. Prospect Stile) and popular routes (e.g. Monarch's Way, the Limestone Link paths, Three Peaks Walk and Two Rivers Way) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – if development will be visible, aim for a balanced composition.
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate or prevent the understanding and appreciation of historic features such as important prehistoric sites, bridges, mills and mining remains, particularly landmarks on the skyline, including church towers, the Pensford viaduct and the obelisk at Breech Hill.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the peaceful and traditional agricultural character of the landscape.
- Protect the special qualities of the Mendips Hills AONB, and consider the setting and views to and from the AONB when siting wind energy developments (particularly the long-distance views to distinctive hills and ridges of the Mendip Hills AONB).

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



The Church of St Mary Magdalene at Langridge (LCA ELV2).

View to Midford Castle (LCA ELV8).

View across the agricultural valley of the Cam Brook and Carlingcott (LCA 3a).

Historic buildings and stone bridge over the River Frome at Iford Manor (LCA 3c).

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A series of steep sided river valleys supporting meandering watercourses. Erosion, landslides and incised tributary streams have created a complex landform of indented, undulating slopes. ■ Most valleys have narrow valley floors, others are more open due to their broader valley landform, particularly along the Avon (ELV4, EV5, ELV6) and some larger tributaries, including the By Brook (ELV4), Lam Brook (ELV2), and parts of the Cam and Wellow Brook (3a, 3b). ■ The broader valleys along the Avon have wide floodplains on the flat valley floor. ■ The valleys are well-wooded, particularly on the upper slopes, with a strong enclosing effect. Lam Brook (ELV2) is more open and its undulating valley landform more exposed. ■ Field patterns tend to be small to medium in scale, although larger, open fields are common in 3a, 3b, 3e, ELV2 and valleys surrounding the Avon (ELV5, ELV 6). ■ Human scale features include hedgerows with hedgerow trees, bridges, mills hamlets and farms.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Land use is mixed, dominated by pasture, with arable land situated on more gently sloping areas. ■ There are localised areas of horsiculture (notably in LCA 3a surrounding Radford and Camerton and parts of LVS 3e), characterised by the sub-division of fields. ■ Field patterns are often irregular, marked by hedgerows with frequent mature trees. Some hedgerows are clipped or reinforced with post and wire fencing. ■ A well-wooded landscape, with large deciduous woodlands (including ancient semi-natural woodlands) often situated on the steeper slopes, and riparian treelines along the watercourses. Many are notified as SNCI. ■ Significant areas of historic parkland are present in ELV3, ELV6 and ELV7. ■ A variety of grassland Priority Habitats are present, as well as traditional orchards. These are often more extensive in the Bathscape areas. ■ Most valleys are sparsely settled, containing small villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads. ■ Some valleys are visually associated with adjacent settlements, including parts of Bath, Keynsham, Paulton and Peasedown St John. Suburban land uses include sports pitches and horsiculture.
Historic landscape character	■ All of ELV7 and parts of ELV1, ELV2, ELV5 and ELV8 lie within the City of Bath WHS, whilst ELV 1-8 are within the setting to the City of Bath WHS. ■ The HLC indicates that most fields are of late medieval origin including *piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields* and some *floodplain meadow* on valley floors. ■ Some localised areas of later *planned fields* also exist. ■ Frequent historic villages are protected by conservation areas, with numerous listed buildings, including distinctive churches, manor houses and former mills. ■ Registered Parks and Gardens include Catherine's Court (grade II*), Claverton Manor (grade II), Prior Park (grade I), Widcombe Manor (grade II), Crowe Hall (grade II) and Abbey Cemetery (grade II). ■ Scheduled Monuments are infrequent, but include bridges, a lock up, Dundas aqueduct, buried remains of a friary and a Romano-British settlement. ■ Remains of C18th-20th coal mining (including mine shafts, batches and remains of the Somerset Coal Canal).
Visual character (including skylines)	■ Views are available along and across the valleys, often framed by wooded skylines or adjacent settlement. ■ Views can be expansive from higher valley sides (ELV1, 2 and 5) and from the surrounding plateaux (particularly Little Solsbury Hill and Lansdown plateau). ■ There are extensive views over Bath and its surroundings, including historic viewports associated with city from Prospect Stile, Beckford's Tower and Sham Castle. Claverton Manor and Brown's Folly were built to enjoy the views over the Kennet and Avon Canal (ELV6). ■ Views on the valley floors, especially in narrow valleys, can be more intimate (ELV3 and parts of ELV8) where they are contained by complex landforms, woodlands and trees lining the watercourses. ■ LCA 3a is overlooked by Peasedown St John, Timsbury and Paulton and High Littleton. ■ Church towers at Wellow, Woolley and Bathford, form occasional skyline features.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ Much of the LCT lies within the Cotswolds AONB and share its special landscape qualities. ■ The LCT has a tranquil character due to extensive woodland and the lack of major development, except for areas adjacent to Bath and Keynsham or the larger settlements in LCAs 3a, 3b and 3e. ■ Other detractors include major roads and pylons which mark skylines in LCA 3a, ELV4 and ELV5. ■ A dense network of public rights of way cross the LCT, including the Limestone Link footpath and the Cotswolds Way, as well as National Cycle route 224 and 24.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The landscape exhibits many of the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB within which it is mostly located, and the majority of the area lies within the City of Bath WHS setting (ELV1-8), which increase the sensitivity of the landscape to solar PV development.

The highly visible valley slopes, extensive areas of semi-natural habitats (including ancient woodland), historic field patterns and traditional settlements, historic features and designed landscapes views over Bath, heighten levels of sensitivity.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

LCAs ELV1 and ELV7 have a high sensitivity to developments of Band B or above, as these landscapes are mostly situated within the City of Bath WHS.

Areas with a slightly lower sensitivity to well-sited solar PV developments include flat floodplain fields on the valley floors where woodlands or hedgerow provide visual enclosure, and/or areas associated with existing development, which lie outside national designations.

The western half of Cam Valley (LCA 3a) and Wellow Brook Valley (LCA 3b) would have a slightly lower sensitivity to solar PV developments, due to their location outside the Cotswolds AONB, larger scale and simple field patterns, the presence of overhead power lines and proximity to larger settlements.

Stockwood Vale and Charlton Bottom (LCA 3e) would also have a slightly lower sensitivity to solar energy developments due to the presence of man-made influences and urban fringe characteristics including the sub-division of fields for horsiculture.

Parts of ELV5 located outside the AONB would, in limited locations, be slightly less sensitive to small solar PV development (Band A), due to its broader valley form and man-made influences in the form of the A4, overhead powerlines and pylons and the urban influence of surrounding settlements.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The landscape exhibits many of the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB within which it is mostly located, and the majority of the area (ELV 1-8) provides a rural setting to the City of Bath WHS which increases the sensitivity of the landscape to wind energy.

The steep valley landform, human scale features (such as farms, bridges, mills, and trees), extensive semi-natural habitats (including ancient woodland), historic field pattern and traditional settlements, historic features and designed landscapes, inter-visibility with the City of Bath WHS indicate high levels of sensitivity to wind energy development.

The presence of man-made features in some of the broader, open valleys (outside of the AONB and WHS) may indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development up to Band B.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas with a slightly lower sensitivity to well-sited wind energy developments include the broader valley floors of the LCT, and/or areas associated with existing development, which lie outside national designations.

The western half of Cam Valley (LCA 3a) and Wellow Brook Valley (LCA 3b) would have a slightly lower sensitivity to wind energy developments due to their location outside the AONB, their larger scale and more open landform, simple field patterns and the presence of overhead powerlines and proximity to urban settlements.

Stockwood Vale and Charlton Bottom (LCA 3e) would have a slightly lower sensitivity to wind energy developments due to the presence of man-made influences and urban fringe characteristics including the sub-division of fields for horsiculture.

Parts of ELV5 situated outside the Cotswolds AONB and the City of Bath WHS, would also have a slightly lower sensitivity to wind energy development, due to its broader valley from, and man-made influences including the busy route of the A4, overhead powerlines and pylons, and the urban influence of surrounding settlements.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)				4	
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 3a, 3b (outside the AONB) and LCA 3e					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for ELV5 (outside the AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for ELV1 and ELV7					
BAND A (≤5ha)				4	
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)					5
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 3a, 3b (outside the AONB), LCA 3e and ELV5 (outside the AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)			3		
BAND B (26-60m)				4	
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are limited opportunities for new Band A solar PV developments to be sited in the flat fields of the valley floor, where they are not overlooked, with screening provided by small to moderate scale fields enclosed by hedgerows, woodlands and lines of trees following existing transport infrastructure.
- More visually enclosed wooded tributary valleys across the landscape could also provide well-screened locations for Band A solar PV developments, although these should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain the valleys' naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.
- No new solar PV developments of Band B or above should be sited on areas identified as important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS or with the City of Bath WHS itself.
- It is unlikely that developments of Band C or larger would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, due to its landscape sensitivities and location within nationally designated landscapes. (AONB, City of Bath WHS and its setting).

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Choose sites on lower-lying flat fields, enclosed by hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character. Avoid locating solar PV developments on prominent steep sided valley slopes or broad floodplain which are overlooked.
- Preserve the extensive tracts of semi-natural habitats which characterise this LCT and avoid siting solar development in areas of habitat interest, including deciduous woodlands, areas of grassland and meadowland Priority Habitats and traditional orchards.
- Maintain the strong network of hedgerows and deciduous woodlands, which provide both valued habitats in the farmed landscape and will serve to screen solar PV developments.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Preserve medieval field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Avoid siting solar PV developments in areas of historic parkland to protect and conserve their distinctive character.
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect significant historic features, including distinctive churches, manor houses and historic parkland.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Protect the landscape setting of settlements identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) including High Littleton, Timsbury, Temple Cloud, Paulton (3a), Peasedown St John (3a & b), Norton Radstock and (3b), Whitchurch and Keynsham (3e). The setting of Bath should be protected (ELV1-3, ELV5-8), as well as Batheaston (ELV3 & 4) and Bathford (ELV4 & 5). Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Consider views from popular public rights of way including the Limestone Link footpath and the Cotswolds Way national trail when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Protect the features which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB, such as numerous public rights of way and high levels of tranquillity. Ensure that the site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Ensure that solar PV developments form part of the mixed farmland mosaic – rather than becoming a dominating land use.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.

Wind energy developments

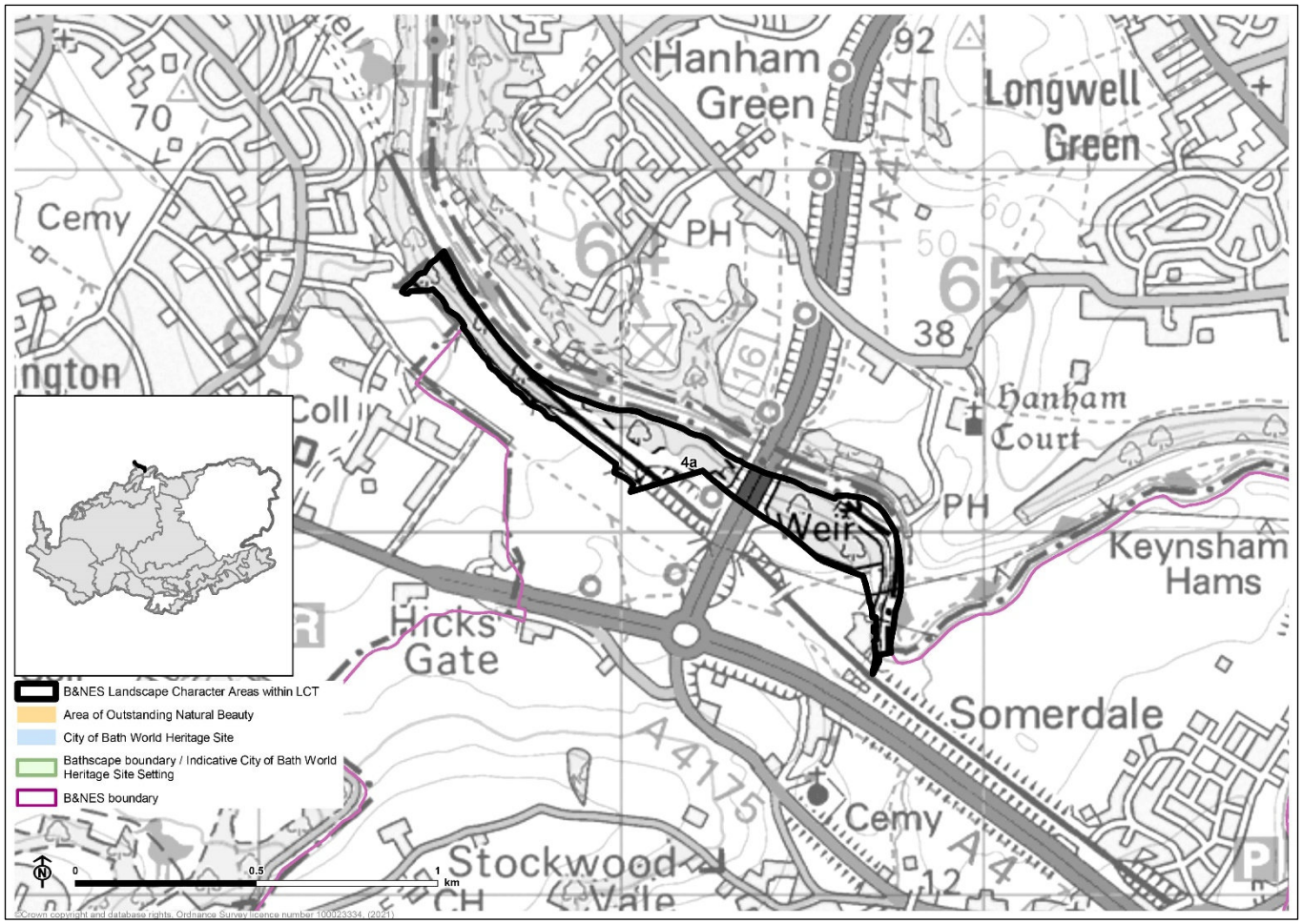
Overall recommendations:

- The valley landscapes would be particularly sensitive to any wind energy development, therefore there are only limited opportunities for Band A turbines to be accommodated in this landscape.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band D turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- A scattering of Band A turbines across the landscape should be avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Avoid siting wind energy developments on the upper valley slopes.
- Protect areas of semi-natural woodland including ancient woodland and riparian habitats along the river valleys.
- Ensure tracks associated with development do not damage historic field patterns and ensure minimum disturbance of traditional hedges, replacing any hedges affected by development.
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate, or prevent the understanding and appreciation of, historic landmarks on the skyline, such as church towers.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance. Preserve important views that are integral to the setting of the City of Bath WHS and seek to protect their significance.
- Protect the landscape setting of settlements identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) including High Littleton, Timsbury,Temple Cloud, Paulton (3a), Peasedown St John (3a & b), Norton Radstock and (3b), Whitchurch and Keynsham (3e). The setting of Bath should be protected (ELV1-3, ELV5-8), as well as Batheaston (ELV3 & 4) and Bathford (ELV4 & 5). Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. Limestone Link footpath and the Cotswolds Way) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – aiming for a balanced composition from where development will be visible.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the intimate character of the valleys, which often have a tranquil and peaceful qualities due to a lack of development, which are distinctive features of this landscape.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB (particularly the open landscape character with long views, drystone walls, historic field patterns, historic parklands and numerous public rights of way) – ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



Small sloping horse pasture enclosed by woodland.

The wooded slopes create a sense of enclosure, with limited views out.

Steep wooded slope of the Avon Valley.

View out from the River Avon across Keynsham Hams to the settlement edge of Keynsham.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A small-scale landscape comprising the north-east facing slope of the narrow Avon valley. ■ The valley is gorge-like at the north west end, featuring a sheer rock face and steep valley side, becoming broader and shallower where it meets the River Avon floodplain to the south-east. ■ The dramatic landform and wooded valley sides create a strong sense of enclosure until the landscape opens out to the south east. ■ Human scale features include trees and woodland, a lock and a red-brick railway bridge.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The steeper slopes are clothed in mixed deciduous woodland, mainly ash, oak and beech, including an area of ancient woodland (Fox's Wood). ■ Fields on the gentler slopes down to the river edge are used for grazing, with some colonising scrub west of the road bridge. ■ The small and irregularly sized fields are bound by unmanaged gappy hedges that are subdivided by pony tape. ■ East Wood and Keynsham Humpy Tumps SNCI covers the whole area, valued for its floristically rich acidic grassland habitat. ■ Settlement is limited to a lock-keepers cottage, storage areas and moored canal boats at Hanham Lock.
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC indicates that the landscape comprises post-medieval reorganised field systems resulting from the 17th Century enclosure of medieval deer park, with some areas of 'woodland' and 'rough ground'. ■ The multi-arched red brick bridge supporting the Bristol-London railway line is an important local feature. ■ The valley has had periods of intense quarrying activity in the past, providing a source of Pennant sandstone, now marked by indentations on the slopes.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The steep landform and wooded slopes of this narrow valley limit views, except for views of the Avon from riverside footpaths and glimpsed views of the gorge from the A4174 road bridge. ■ As the valley widens to the south east, there are extensive views across the floodplain to Keynsham, and the Cotswolds Hills in the distance. ■ Pylons on the adjacent plateau to the south (9a) mark the skyline in this direction, although woodland on the valley slopes provides some screening.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ A strong sense of place is created by the hanging woods of the gorge, rocky outcrops and riverside features (such as the canal boats, lock and weir). ■ Overgrown scrubby areas, litter along Durley Lane, as well as 'clutter' associated with moorings at Hanham Lock pontoon detract from the 'remote' character of the valley. ■ Traffic noise from the A4174 Bristol Ring Road detracts from the tranquillity of the gorge.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The enclosed valley landform and screening provided by woodland cover means this landscape could indicate lower sensitivity to small, carefully sited solar PV developments without adverse impacts on character. However, the dramatic gorge landform, steep and highly visible slopes, tracts of semi-natural woodland (including ancient woodland), and strong sense of place increase sensitivity to schemes of Band B or above.

Overall, the limited land area available within this LCT, means that schemes over 5ha (Band A), could not be accommodated.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

Although the human influence on this landscape could indicate lower sensitivity to wind energy development, the dramatic gorge-like landform, extensive broadleaved woodland (including ancient woodland), human-scale features, strong sense of place and visual relationships with Keynsham Ham floodplain, Keynsham, and the Cotswolds AONB indicate high sensitivity.

Overall, the LCT could not accommodate wind turbines greater than Band A in height.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)					5
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are limited opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to Band A) to be sited on the shallower more enclosed pasture fields of the LCT, with some screening provided by the scrub vegetation and woodland.
- It is unlikely that any larger scale developments (Band B, C and D) would be able to be incorporated within this LCT due to the small land area available. Larger development would also impact on character, mainly due to the dramatic topography, extensive woodlands and strong sense of place.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- The dramatic landform of this LCT is prominent in views within the valley. Ensure that the scenic backdrop provided to viewpoints is retained.
- Avoid locating solar PV developments on the steeper slopes. Choose sites on more enclosed, shallower slopes in the landscape where development would be less visible and have less influence on landscape character.
- Protect the extensive woodland cover, especially areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, avoiding any loss of habitat through the impacts of development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints (including views from Keynsham settlement edge) and popular routes (e.g. the River Avon Trail) when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from the A4174 road bridge or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the steep wooded valley sides of the River Avon (including extensive ancient woodland) or the character of Hanham Lock and weir, distinctive features of this landscape enjoyed by walkers on the Avon Trail.
- Ensure that solar PV developments are an occasional rather than dominating feature.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

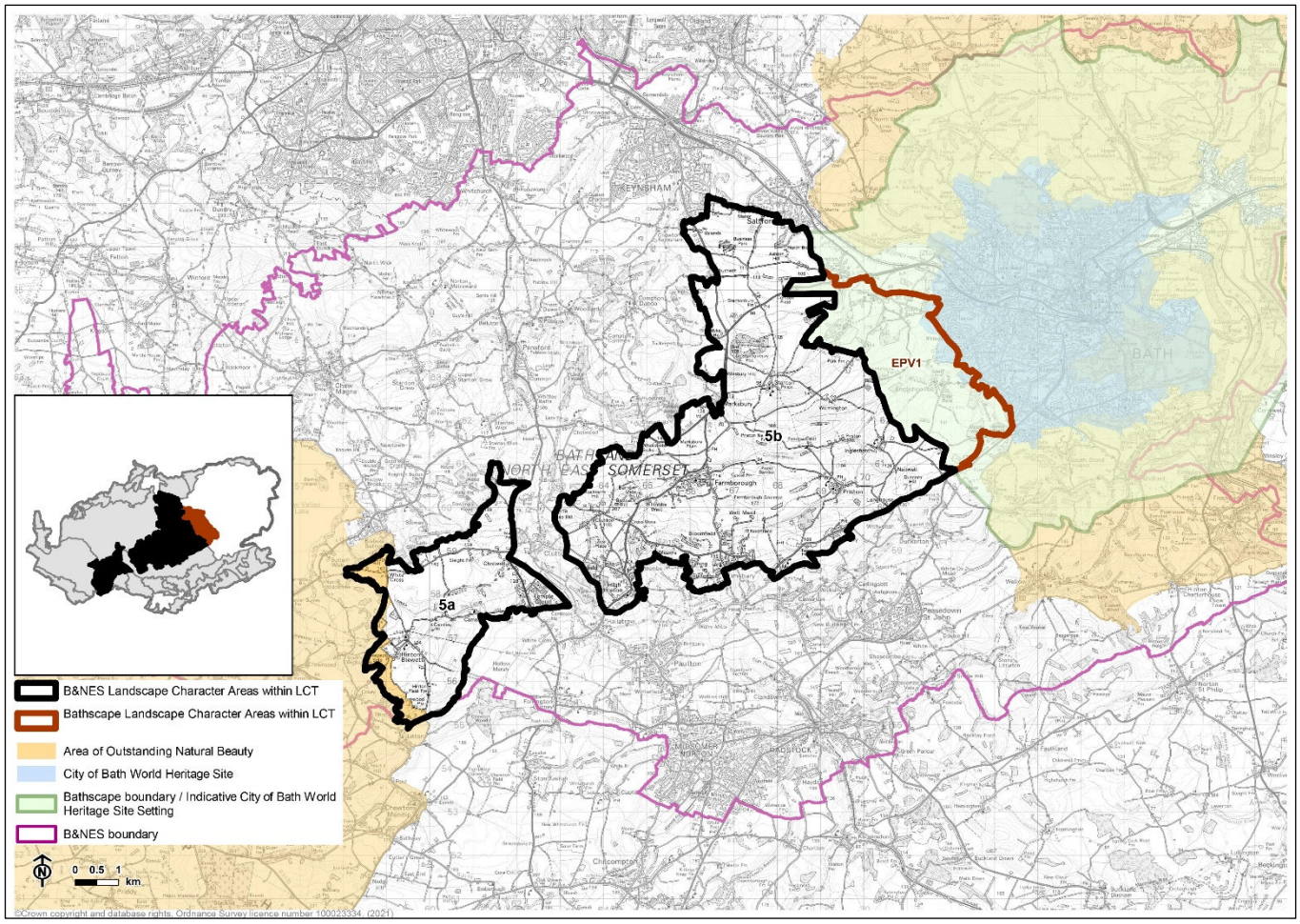
Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

- Due to the steeply sloping landform, small scale and limited land area in the valley, there are limited opportunities for wind energy development. Only single small-scale (Band A) turbines are likely to be in scale with the landscape. A scattering of turbines across the landscape should be avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Due to the sensitivities of the landscape, particularly its dramatic topography and scale (with frequent human scale features), its extensive semi-natural woodland, sense of place and visual relationships with sensitive adjacent landscapes (including the Cotswolds AONB), there are no opportunities for multiple turbine developments (wind farms).
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for turbines larger than Band A due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Locate turbines away from the steep gorge sides.
- Ensure any ancillary features associated with wind energy development (e.g. buildings and boundaries) match the local vernacular.
- Protect the area's extensive woodland cover from the impacts of development, especially mature trees and areas of ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. the River Avon Trail) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the steep gorge-like valley and hanging woodland, and historic lock and multi-arched railway bridge as distinctive features of this landscape.



Gently undulating fields north of Farmborough, enclosed by trees and clipped hedgerows.

Existing Band C solar PV development at Chelwood Solar Farm (10.8ha), with extensive views towards Bristol beyond.

Large-scale flat fields north of Hinton Blewett, enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees.

Undulating arable fields south of Englishcombe, with small woodland blocks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A heavily eroded plateau landscape with complex valleys and notable conical or rounded hills, as at Farmborough Common, Priest Barrow, The Sleight and Mearns Hill. ■ The incised valleys of the Conygre and Corston Brooks give rise to two distinctive wide ridgelines in the east. ■ The landscape has a generally open character resulting from topography and limited woodland cover with a greater sense of enclosure within the tree-lined brook valleys. ■ Trees, hedgerows and local undulations create pockets of enclosure with some concealed slopes. ■ Human scale features include villages, hamlets and farmsteads as well as hedgerows, scattered trees and small copses.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The landscape is dominated by pasture fields, however in the north, (e.g. around Corston) there are some areas of intensive arable production. ■ Field amalgamation has resulted in a distinctively larger field pattern, with some medieval field patterns around settlements (including Hinton Blewett and Englishcombe). ■ Fields are bound by well-clipped hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees. In-field trees are an occasional feature. ■ Woodland cover is scattered with small woodlands, tree belts and copses, notably concentrated around Englishcombe and Newton St. Loe (EPV1) including ancient semi-natural woodland at Middle Wood, Verham Wood, Breach Wood and Priston Wood (also an SNCI). ■ Pockets of species-rich unimproved grassland habitats particularly on steeper slopes, include Burledge Sidelands and Meadows SSSI (LCA 5a). ■ The Cam Brook (LCA 5a) and Conygre Brook (LCA 5b) are both designated as SNCIs. ■ Settlement is limited to traditional small villages and farmsteads, constructed in local limestone. There has been some modern expansion along the linear settlement of Temple Cloud. ■ Settlements tend to sit on the valley slopes and sides - the plateau villages of Temple Cloud, Timsbury and Marksbury are notable exceptions. ■ There are two existing solar PV developments at Hunstrete (Wilmington Farm) (5ha) and Chelwood Solar Farm (10.8 ha).
Historic landscape character	■ Field systems are of medieval origin, identified in the National HLC as *piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields* and *planned fields* with some areas of *floodplain meadow* around watercourses e.g. near Barrow Vale, west of Farmborough. ■ Scheduled Monuments include Stantonbury Hillfort, a dominant landmark in the north east of the area, and sections of the Wansdyke linear earthwork. ■ The historic cores of Hinton Blewett, Timsbury, Newton St Loe and Englishcombe are Conservation Areas. ■ Listed buildings are clustered around settlements, including grade I listed churches at Hinton Blewett, Cameley and Priston. The well-preserved 18th Century water mill at Priston is locally important. ■ Newton Park is a grade II* Registered Park and Garden and contains a collection of listed buildings, including a grade I listed castle keep. ■ The landscape around Englishcombe and Newton St Loe (LCA EPV1) provides part of the landscape setting of the City of Bath WHS.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The open plateau landscape affords extensive views including to the major urban areas of Bristol and Bath. ■ Hedgerows and undulations in the landform limit intervisibility in some locations. ■ The flat elevated plateau landscape of LCA 5a is a visually distinctive feature from surrounding areas, with man-made features limited to occasional pylons. ■ Stantonbury Hill, Winsbury Hill, Barrow Hill, Farmborough Common and Priest Barrow are important topographical landmarks. ■ The towers of grade I churches at Hinton Blewett, Cameley and Priston are distinctive local skyline features. ■ From the plateau of LCA 5a there are long views to and from adjacent landscapes, including south-west across the Mendip Hills AONB and north west over Chew Valley lake. ■ There is a strong visual relationship between the north east of the LCT (LCA EPV1) and the hills and escarpments of the Cotswolds AONB (near Corston) with long views from the Cotswold Way.

	■ LCA EPV1 is prominent from some key historical viewpoints within the City of Bath WHS, notably from Twerton Roundhill as well as forming a wider landscape backdrop in views from Kelston Round Hill, Prospect Stile and Beckford's Tower.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The western fringe of the LCT (near White Cross and west of Hinton Blewett) falls within the Mendip Hills AONB, which then extends westwards. ■ The area retains a largely rural character due to the relative lack of modern development, and away from settlements there is a strong sense of tranquility. ■ Tranquillity is disturbed by locally by traffic on major A-roads (A39 / A368) and pylons are dominant skylines features in parts of the LCT. ■ The scenic views from the many public rights of way make the area popular for recreation.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The large-scale landform of the rolling plateau, large fields with areas of intensive arable production, limited semi-natural habitats, enclosure provided by intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees indicate low sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments.

However, more visible slopes of the distinctive conical hills or incised valleys, limited woodland cover in some areas which results in an open character, important heritage assets and areas of medieval field patterns, the rural character of the farmed landscape and historic villages increase sensitivity to solar PV development, particularly to Band D schemes.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Some areas of the LCT have an intimate rural character and complex topography with small-scale traditional villages, whilst other areas are more open, have a simpler landform of gently undulating large-scale arable fields and are influenced by modern development. These contrasts result in variations in overall sensitivity across the LCT.

More intensively farmed areas with a simple landform where screening is provided by well-maintained hedgerows would have a lower sensitivity to solar PV development, for example the large scale arable fields within LCA 5a, and in the north and east of LCA 5b.

The western edge of LCA 5a lies within the Mendip Hills AONB, which is nationally designated for its scenic qualities. Any areas within the AONB would have high sensitivity for Band C or D developments.

Areas that form part of the setting to the City of Bath World Heritage Site - within Bathscape LCA EPV1 - have high sensitivity for solar PV development (of Band B or above).

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The large-scale landform of the rolling plateau, large fields with areas of intensive agriculture, existing human influence (including pylons and major roads) along with limited semi-natural habitat coverage, indicate lower sensitivity for wind energy development.

However, the more complex topography of the incised valleys and conical hills, frequent human-scale features, important heritage assets and areas of medieval field patterns, the rural character of the farmed landscape and historic villages, and strong visual relationships of parts of the LCT with the City of Bath WHS and Cotswolds AONB to the east, and Mendip Hills AONB in the west, increase sensitivity.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Some areas of the LCT have an intimate rural character and complex topography with small-scale traditional villages, whilst other areas are more open, have a simpler landform of gently undulating large-scale arable fields and are influenced by modern development. These contrasts result in variations in overall sensitivity across the LCT.

Across the LCT, there are areas that would be highly sensitive to wind energy development including:

- The visible slopes of the distinctive conical hills
- The narrow and intimate incised valleys (such as the Cam or Conygre Brook valleys)
- Areas to the west of the LCT which are within or intervisible with the Mendip Hills AONB
- Areas to the east of the LCT which are intervisible with or fall within Bathscape LCA EPV1 (which forms the setting of the City of Bath World Heritage Site) or are intervisible with the Cotswolds AONB.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)			3		
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)				4	
Landscape potential scores for parts for LCA 5a within the Mendip Hills AONB					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscape LCA EPV1					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)	1				
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)			3		
BAND D (100-120m)				4	
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for parts for LCA 5a within the Mendip Hills AONB, and Bathscape LCA EPV1					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-150m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including Band C) to be sited on the flattest plateau areas (those which are not overlooked) and more hidden farmed slopes of the LCT, with screening provided by hedges and occasional woodland.
- Explore opportunities for siting solar PV developments within the larger fields around Farmborough, Corston (outside of the City of Bath WHS setting) and north of Hinton Blewett, which could potentially accommodate larger (up to Band C) developments.
- No Band C or D developments should be sited within the western part of the LCT (within the Mendip Hills AONB) or within Bathscape LCA EPV1 which is within the City of Bath WHS setting.
- It is unlikely that Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, due to field scale and levels of visibility.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB, including long-distance views to its distinctive ridgeline. Ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Preserve remaining medieval field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Consider views to and from local viewpoints and popular routes when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Protect the strongly rural character of Bathscape LCA EPV1, identified as being important to the landscape setting of The City of Bath World Heritage Site. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the City of Bath WHS.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Bath, Saltford, Temple Cloud, Clutton, High Littleton and Timsbury. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back where the rows of panels would be discernible.
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the significant historical features including Stantonbury Hillfort, the distinctive conical hills protruding from the landscape and historic church towers.
- Maintain the strong network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and occasional woodlands, which provide both valued habitats in the farmed landscape and will serve to screen solar PV developments.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts from multiple developments). Schemes should form part of the mixed agricultural mosaic, rather than a dominating land use.

Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

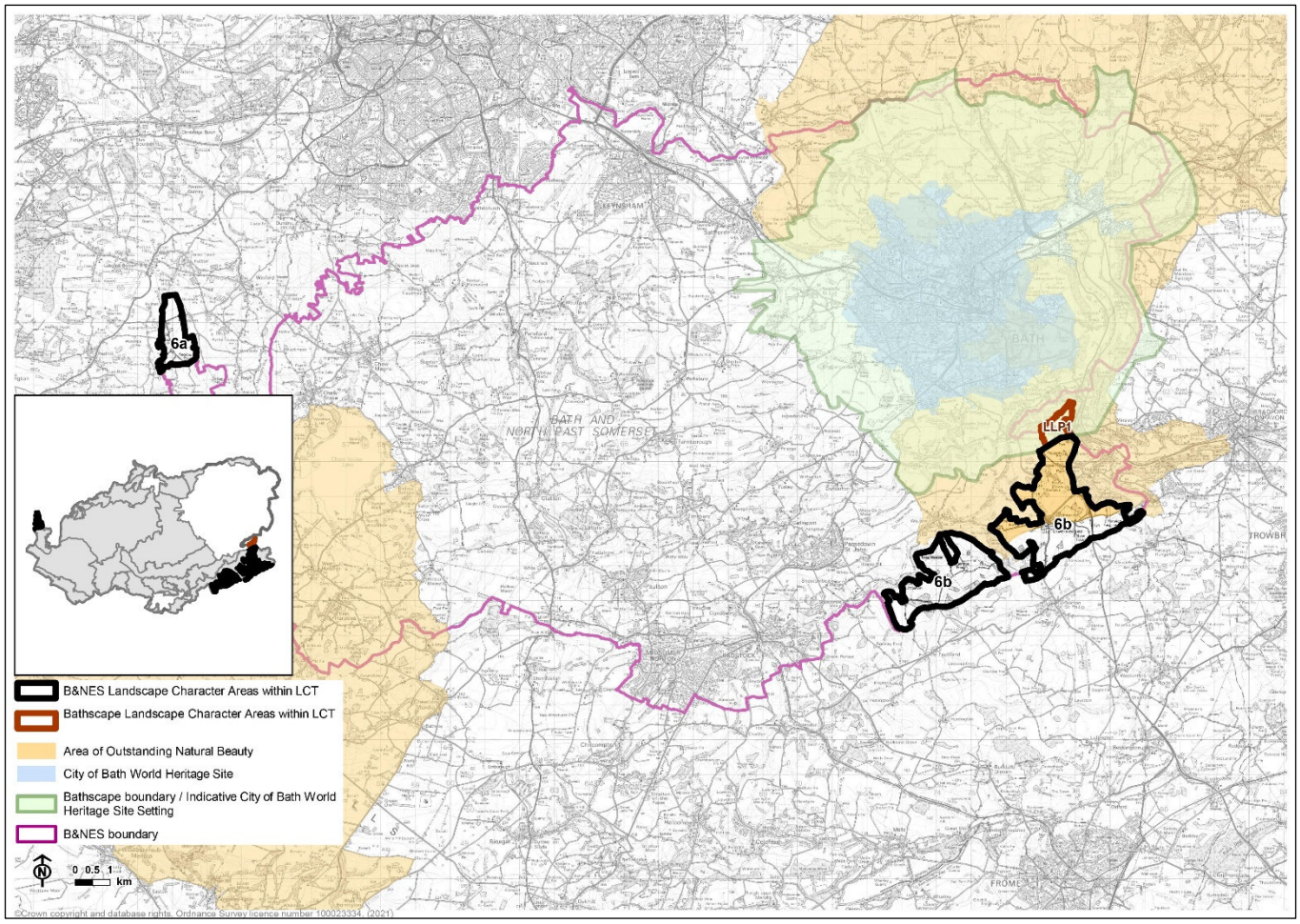
- The larger scale, undulating plateau landscapes could incorporate single Band A or Band B turbines, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.

- Explore opportunities to locate wind energy development near existing development at Burnett Business Park in the north of the LCT.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band E turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Avoid locating turbines within the smaller-scale incised brook valleys or near the notable conical rounded hills at Farmborough Common, Priest Barrow, The Sleight and Mearns Hill.
- Site development back from the plateau edge to minimise visual impact on the surrounding valley landscapes.
- Locate turbines in areas of larger scale fields avoiding the complex small-scale historic landscapes.
- Protect the historic qualities of Newton Park and the integrity of designed views to and from the park, (including distinctive views to the neighbouring Kelston Round Hill).
- Ensure wind turbines do not adversely affect the cultural heritage assets of the landscape, including the hillforts, sections of the Wansdyke linear boundary and the historic villages surrounded by medieval field patterns.
- Ensure any ancillary features (e.g. buildings and walls) match the local vernacular e.g. using local materials and that features such as tracks do not erode historic field patterns.
- Ensure wind energy developments do not detract from distinctive views to and from the Mendip Hills AONB (from LCA 5a), or views from key viewpoints within the City of Bath WHS.
- Protect the strongly rural character of Bathscape LCA EPV1, identified as being important to the landscape setting of the City of Bath World Heritage Site.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Bath, Saltford, Temple Cloud, Clutton, High Littleton and Timsbury. Ensure any wind energy developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Mendip Hills AONB (particularly the open landscape character with long views, drystone walls and historic field patterns. Ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



An enclosed field on Thrubwell plateau (6a), with screening provided by a poplar shelterbelt, as well as intact hedgerows.

View north over rolling arable farmland from Wellow Lane near Hinton Charterhouse.

Flat pasture fields on Thrubwell Plateau, enclosed by clipped hedges and hedgerow trees.

Open views across large-scale, gently sloping arable fields within the Upper Baggeridge Plateau LCA.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A relatively large scale, gently undulating plateau landscape. ■ The landscape south of Wellow (near Upper Baggeridge Farm, LCA 6b) forms an elevated ridgeline with gently sloping sides. ■ Fields are medium-large scale with regular, straight boundaries, with small-scale fields around settlements. ■ There is a strong sense of openness on the exposed plateau tops. In some lower lying areas, trees, hedgerows and occasional woodland create a sense of enclosure. ■ Human scale features include hedgerows with mature hedgerow and in-field trees, scattered farmsteads and the settlements of Hinton Charterhouse and Pipehouse.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Farmland is mainly improved grassland and pasture. Arable land is more common on the elevated sloping land in the south. ■ Woodland cover is infrequent, typically occurring in small blocks in the south of the LCT (LCA 6b). Littleton Wood and Hog Wood are ancient semi-natural woodlands and SNCIs. ■ Small groups of trees around farms, unclipped hedgerows, and frequent mature hedgerow and in-field trees create localised pockets of enclosure. ■ A simple pattern of generally regular medium to large fields. Field patterns are more complex around settlements with small and irregular shaped fields with mixed field boundaries including hedgerows and limestone walls. ■ Settlement is sparse, consisting of the villages of Hinton Charterhouse and Pipehouse in LCA 6b and scattered farmsteads across the plateau. ■ Occasional small limestone quarries reflect the mining heritage of the district, including Stoke Hill Stone Mine (LLP1) and a disused quarry south of Thrubwell Farm (LCA 6a).
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC indicates that fields are mainly late medieval *piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields* with some larger fields typical of late 18th and early 19th century parliamentary enclosure. ■ Villages and farmsteads have a traditional vernacular, especially within the Conservation Area at Hinton Charterhouse. ■ Scheduled Monuments include the grade I listed chapter house of Hinton Priory and a length of Roman Road to the south of Pipehouse (LCA 6b). ■ More recent history is evident in the landscape at Hog Wood (LCA 6b) where there are a number of pill boxes, anti-tank and infantry trenches dating from 1940.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ An open landscape with some uninterrupted views, sometimes limited by trees and hedgerows. ■ There are some long views from LCA 6b over the Cam and Wellow Valleys to surrounding hills, with the White Horse on at Westbury on the Wiltshire Downs visible in distant views from the east. From LCA 6a there are long views south towards the Mendip Hills AONB. ■ There are intermittent glimpses of infrastructure at Bristol Airport from LCA 6a in places where there are gaps in vegetation. ■ Skylines are generally undeveloped aside from minor elements such as telegraph poles and overhead cables. ■ Limpley Stoke water tower and the tower of Hinton Charterhouse church form distinctive local landmarks.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ This is a highly rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity owing to the absence of modern development. Human influence is mainly focussed around agricultural activity. ■ LCA LLP1 is within the City of Bath WHS setting and falls within the Cotswolds AONB, as does the northern half of LCA 6b. ■ Some localised disturbance is experienced around main transport corridors including the A36, A38 and Bristol Airport.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The large-scale plateau landform, screening provided by hedgerows and scattered trees, and regular medium-large fields across much of the LCT indicates lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments. However, the open, exposed slopes, intervisible with AONB landscapes, areas of smaller medieval field patterns, and strong traditional, rural character with high levels of tranquillity increase sensitivity.

There may be some potential for smaller (Band A or Band B) solar PV developments to be located on the elevated plateau in LCA 6a or the south-west of LCA 6b (outside the AONB) away from the edge of the plateau, where hedgerows provide screening. However, sensitivity is increased with proximity to and visual relationship with designated landscapes (including the Cotswolds AONB and City of Bath WHS for LCA 6a and the Mendips AONB for 6b).

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas within the Cotswolds AONB, including LCA LLP1 (also within the City of Bath WHS setting), and the northern half of LCA 6b would have high sensitivity to solar PV developments due to their highly scenic qualities and the important setting they provide to the City of Bath WHS.

LCA 6a would be less sensitive to solar PV developments due to its flat plateau topography, which is not overlooked by surrounding landscapes, enclosure provided by the intact hedgerow network, and existing human/development influence associated with Bristol Airport.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The large-scale plateau landform, medium-large scale fields, and the presence of existing human influence could indicate lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the traditional, rural character with high levels of tranquillity and strong visual relationships with surrounding valleys and the Mendip Hills AONB and Cotswolds AONB heighten sensitivity, particularly on the edge of the plateau.

There may be some potential for smaller (Band A or Band B) turbines to be located on the elevated plateau in LCA 6a or the south-west of LCA 6b (outside the AONB) where the simple landform and larger scale fields would be less sensitive to wind energy development. However, sensitivity is increased with proximity to and visual relationship with designated landscapes (including the Cotswolds AONB and City of Bath WHS for LCA 6a and the Mendips AONB for 6b).

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas within the Cotswolds AONB, including the northern half of LCA 6b and LCA LLP1 (also within the City of Bath WHS setting), would be particularly sensitive to wind energy developments due to their scenic qualities and important setting provided to the City of Bath WHS. Areas of LCA 6b outside the AONB would be less sensitive to smaller wind energy developments.

LCA 6a would have slightly lower sensitivity to wind energy developments than the rest of the LCT due to its flatter topography, and the influence of existing development associated with Bristol Airport. However, this area would have a high sensitivity to larger turbines (Band C and above) which would be visible from the Mendip Hills AONB to the south.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for LCA 6a (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)			3		
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 6b (outside the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscape LCA LLP1 and parts of 6b (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)					5
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for LCA 6a (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)		2			
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 6b (outside the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)		2			
BAND B (26-60m)			3		
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscape LCA LLP1 and 6b (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to the lower end of Band C) to be sited on the farmed plateau landscape of the LCT.
- The small areas of woodland, tall hedgerows and scattered trees across the landscape could provide screening for solar PV developments. These should be sited within farmland to retain the habitat interest and naturalistic features of the landscape.
- It is unlikely that larger Band C or Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, particularly in highly open plateau areas characterised by medieval field patterns, or around the historic settlement of Hinton Charterhouse.
- The flatter, more enclosed fields located in LCA 6a may be more suitable for solar PV development than the large, sloping fields south of Wellow (6b), which would be more visible (including from areas within the Cotswolds AONB).

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Protect the factors that contribute to the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB, including the traditional limestone buildings, long views and the tranquil, rural character. Ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Protect the undeveloped character of LCA LLP1, identified as being important to the landscape setting of The City of Bath WHS. Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- Ensure that solar PV developments form part of the traditionally rural farmed landscape (a key characteristic of this LCT), rather than becoming a dominating land use.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (especially long views across the plateau to the Mendip Hills AONB (6a), and views across the Cotswolds AONB from the ridgeline south of Wellow (6b) when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Protect the setting of important historic assets in the area, including Hinton Priory and the rural setting of Pipehouse and Hinton Charterhouse Conservation Area.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the strongly rural and tranquil qualities of this landscape.

Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

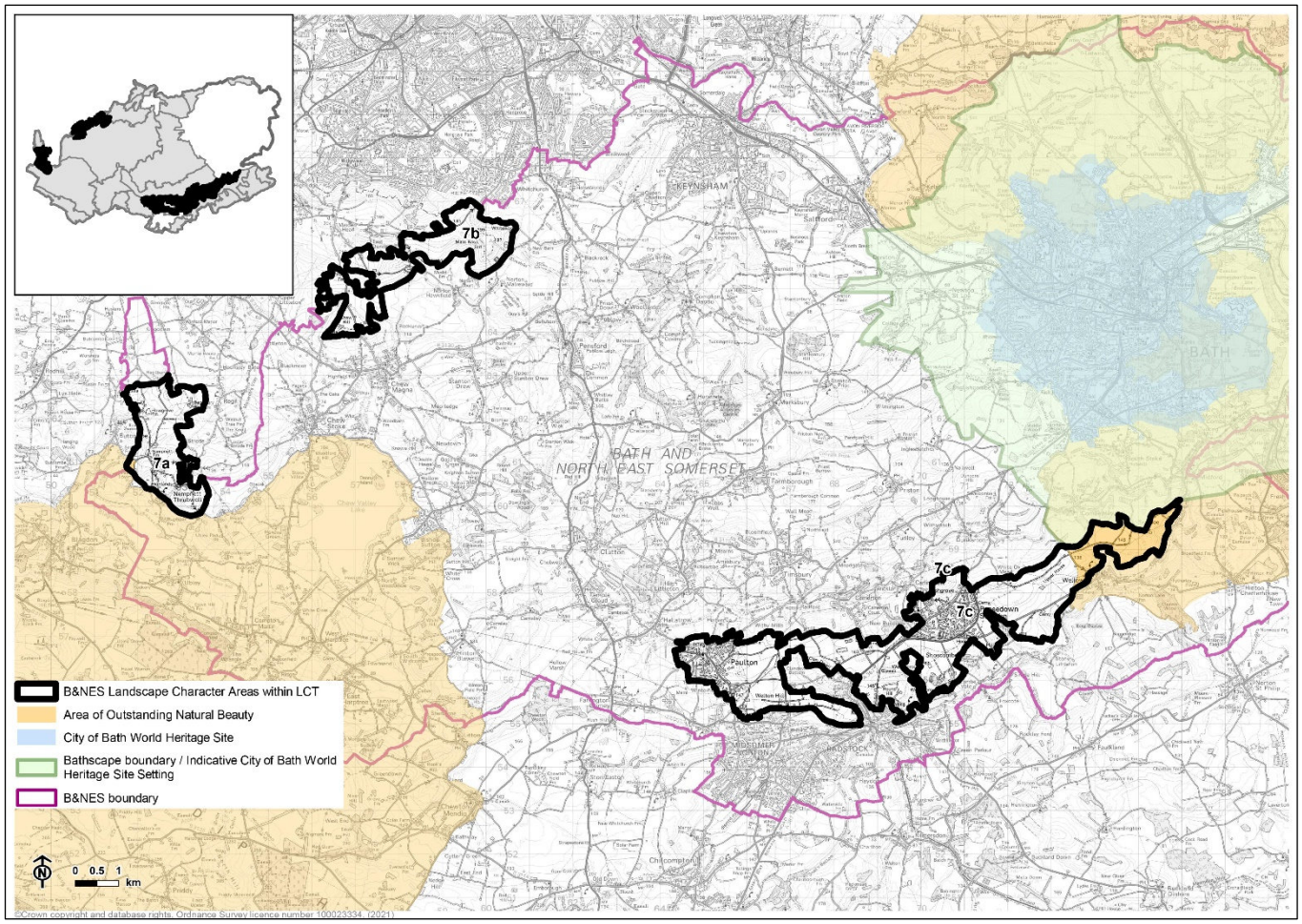
- The flat to gently undulating agricultural landscape of the plateaux could incorporate Band A and B wind turbines, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Band C turbines would be most readily accommodated on more open, elevated land which is larger in scale away from the edge of the plateau, although opportunities are more limited due to other landscape sensitivities.

- Due to the sensitivities of the landscape, particularly its visual relationship with sensitive landscapes including the Mendip Hills and Cotswolds AONBs, there are limited opportunities for large developments of multiple turbines.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band E turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Avoid siting turbines on the plateau edge where they would be highly prominent in views from surrounding areas. Instead aim for a more central location.
- Locate turbines within areas of larger scale fields, away from the smaller-scale historic landscapes and settlements.
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Ensure any ancillary features (e.g. buildings and walls) match the local vernacular e.g. using local materials and that features such as tracks do not erode historic field patterns.
- Replace hedgerows and stone walls if they are affected by development.
- Ensure any wind energy developments do not detract from the setting the landscape of LCA LLP1 provides to the City of Bath WHS. Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Protect the appreciation and understanding of historic features such as the church at Hinton Charterhouse, Stony Littleton Neolithic Long Barrow and Bronze Age barrows on Midford Hill.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the strongly rural and tranquil qualities of this landscape.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB in LCA 6b and LCA LLP1 (particularly the open landscape character with long views, the traditional limestone buildings, historic field patterns and numerous public rights of way) and ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and public rights of way (especially long views across the plateau to the Mendip Hills AONB (6a), and views across the Cotswolds AONB from the ridgeline south of Wellow (6b) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – aiming for a balanced composition from where development will be visible.
- Consider views from the Cotswolds AONB and Mendip Hills AONB when locating turbines in this area – aim for a balanced composition that is in scale with the landscape.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



View south-east along the south-western ridgeline in 7a, showing open pasture fields, hedgerow trees and views over low-lying land.

Minor incised streams and localised woodland in 7b near Yewtree Farm.

View to Maes Knoll in 7b from outside the LCT to the south.

Pasture fields in the west of 7c, showing a pylon route.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A relatively large-scale landform of undulating hills and ridges, with some steep scarps and the distinctive hill at Maes Knoll. ■ Exposed slopes with limited tree cover have a strong sense of openness, and are strongly intervisible with adjacent low-lying landscapes ■ Human-scale features include hedgerow trees, infrequent small woodland blocks, scattered 19th century farmsteads and sunken lanes in LCA 7b.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Land use on more steeply sloping fields or in proximity to settlements is pastoral, with larger arable fields on flatter ground (particularly in LCA 7c). ■ Predominantly medium-scale field pattern with low, clipped field boundaries (notably large scale in the east of LCA 7b and 7c) which are open in character. ■ A more complex pattern of enclosed small-scale medieval fields on the steep slopes of LCA 7a and surrounding North Wick in LCA 7b. ■ Field boundaries are marked by species-rich hedgerows, some reinforced with post and wire fencing. ■ Mature hedgerow trees are relatively infrequent, although more concentrated near settlements. ■ Woodland is generally limited to small blocks of deciduous woodland, usually less than one hectare (some identified as SNCI). ■ There are localised areas of grassland Priority Habitats, including some identified as SNCIs. ■ Bowlditch Quarry (in LCA 7c) is designated as a SSSI for its geological significance. ■ Settlement consists of dispersed farmsteads and small hamlets which usually avoid more elevated and exposed areas, with some larger villages within LCA 7c.
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC identifies localised areas of *ancient fields* of medieval or earlier origin on the steep slopes of LCA 7a and surrounding North Wick in LCA 7b, as well as ancient unenclosed commons at Maes Knoll. ■ Elsewhere, large areas of C.13th-18th piecemeal enclosure of larger strip fields exist. ■ A landscape of considerable time depth including frequent historic features, many designated as Scheduled Monuments, including the prehistoric Fairy Toot Long Barrow (LCA 7a) a Roman villa and the remains of a Romano-British town at Camerton (LCA 7c), and a deserted medieval farmstead near Northwick (7b). ■ The prehistoric hill fort at Maes Knoll and the Wansdyke linear earthworks are important landscape features (LCA 7b). ■ Parts of the Fosse Way are also present in LCA 7c. ■ Paulton contains several listed buildings reflected in its designation as a conservation area (LCA 7c), including the grade II* listed Church of The Holy Trinity. ■ A small part of the Radstock Conservation Area (near White Wicket Farm) is also within LCA 7c.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The hills and ridges are visually distinctive features within the wider landscape and provide a backdrop to views over a wide area. ■ The elevated LCT affords expansive views over surrounding lower-lying areas, including long views across the Chew Valley to the Mendips Hills AONB (from LCA 7a and 7b) and east to the hills of the Cotswolds AONB and the City of Bath WHS (from LCA 7c). There are views to Bristol from LCA 7b. ■ Maes Knoll and the northern edge of LCA 7c are visible from viewpoints within the City of Bath WHS. ■ Skylines are generally open and undeveloped with occasional hedgerow trees, woodland blocks and farmsteads forming distinctive skyline features. ■ Man-made features are occasionally prominent on the skyline, including a pylon route crossing LCA 7a and 7c and telecommunication towers and floodlights in LCA 7c. ■ The harsh settlement edge of Peasedown St John (LCA 7c) is situated on elevated land, making it visually prominent within the landscape. ■ The Mendip Transmitter and Mendip Turbine Shooter's Bottom are visible on the skyline in distant views to the south-west from LCA 7c.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ A remote and tranquil landscape, particularly away from larger settlements and major roads. ■ The east of LCA 7c lies within the Cotswolds AONB, which then extends eastwards. There is a good provision of public rights of way including parts of the Two Rivers Way (LCA 7a), Three Peaks Way (LCA 7b) and Community Forest Path (LCA 7b). ■ Views to the urban edge of Bristol, Keynsham, Satlford and Bath slightly detract from the rural and 'remote' character of the landscape of LCA 7b.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The open and visually prominent slopes throughout the LCT, with limited vegetation to provide enclosure, areas of small-scale medieval field patterns, the frequent heritage features and relative tranquillity heighten levels of sensitivity to solar PV developments. However, the relatively large scale landform and the flatter ridge tops indicate a lower sensitivity to solar PV developments.

Areas of flatter, elevated land on the hilltops that are not overlooked may present opportunities for carefully sited small-scale (Band A or the lower end of Band B) solar PV developments, where appropriately screened by hedgerow boundaries. In LCA 7a there are already two small Band A solar developments (together covering less than 1ha) which are visually enclosed by hedgerow boundaries and agricultural buildings.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level:

The eastern edge of LCA 7c lies within the Cotswolds AONB, nationally designated for its scenic qualities as well as being in close proximity to the City of Bath WHS. Any areas within the Cotswolds AONB would be particularly sensitive to solar PV development and therefore have an elevated sensitivity score.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The distinctive skylines of the LCT, presence of human scale features (including hedgerow trees and sunken or hedge-enclosed lanes), species-rich hedgerows, historic field patterns, frequent heritage features including historic landmark features (such as Maes Knoll Hill Fort and the Wansdyke linear earthwork in LCA 7b), visibility from the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs and relative tranquillity heighten levels of sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the relatively large scale of the landscape and presence of existing man-made features (including a pylon route and telecommunications towers) indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited wind energy development.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level:

The east of LCA 7c lies within the Cotswolds AONB, which is nationally designated for its scenic qualities and therefore has a higher sensitivity to wind energy developments in comparison to the rest of this LCT. Areas within the Cotswolds AONB are highly sensitive to Band C and above wind energy developments.

The west of LCA 7c (outside of the Cotswolds AONB) would be less sensitive to wind energy development, due to its greater human influence, including larger villages, a trunk road (the A367), and telecommunication towers and pylon routes. There is however some variation in sensitivity within this area of LCA 7c (outside of the AONB); the landscape to the east of Peasedown St John has an increasingly strong relationship with the Cotswolds AONB, resulting in an increased landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)		2			
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential for part of LCA 7c (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (≤5ha)				4	
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)		2			
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for LCA 7c (outside the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)	1				
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)			3		
BAND D (100-120m)				4	
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for parts of LCA 7c (within the Cotswolds AONB)					
BAND A (18-25m)			3		
BAND B (26-60m)				4	
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including the higher end of Band B) to be sited on the flat hilltops, where fields are visually enclosed by hedgerow boundaries and occasional woodland. In 7a there are already some very small (less than 1ha) solar farms at Nempnett Farm.
- No Band B or C development should be sited within the eastern part of the LCT (LCA 7c) which falls within the Cotswolds AONB.
- It is unlikely that Band C or Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, due to field scale and levels of visibility.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Seek to restore and enhance degraded hedgerow boundaries or woodlands through hedgerow and tree planting, in combination with any new solar developments. This will provide better screening to solar developments and strengthen habitat networks.
- Protect and conserve areas identified as grassland Priority Habitats (some of which are SNCIs) and ensure any new solar PV developments are not placed within these areas.
- Preserve medieval field patterns in 7a and 7b by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Avoid siting solar PV developments within the HLC Types of *ancient unenclosed commons* at Maes Knoll, which is a particularly distinctive hill in local views and would be highly vulnerable to change.
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the significant historical features including Maes Knoll hillfort and Waydyke, which form distinctive landmarks.
- Protect the areas of LCA 7c identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Peasedown St John, Norton Radstock and Paulton. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Avoid locating solar PV developments on open upper hill slopes and steep scarps and along the undeveloped skylines of the LCT.
- Protect distinctive views to the hills and ridgelines within the LCT from surrounding areas.
- Consider views from popular routes including the Two Rivers Way (7a and 7b) and the Three Peaks Walk (7b) when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB including its large, open arable fields, 'big skies' and sense of rural tranquillity.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic qualities of the adjacent Mendip Hills AONB, including long distance views to its distinctive hills and ridges. Ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.

Wind energy developments

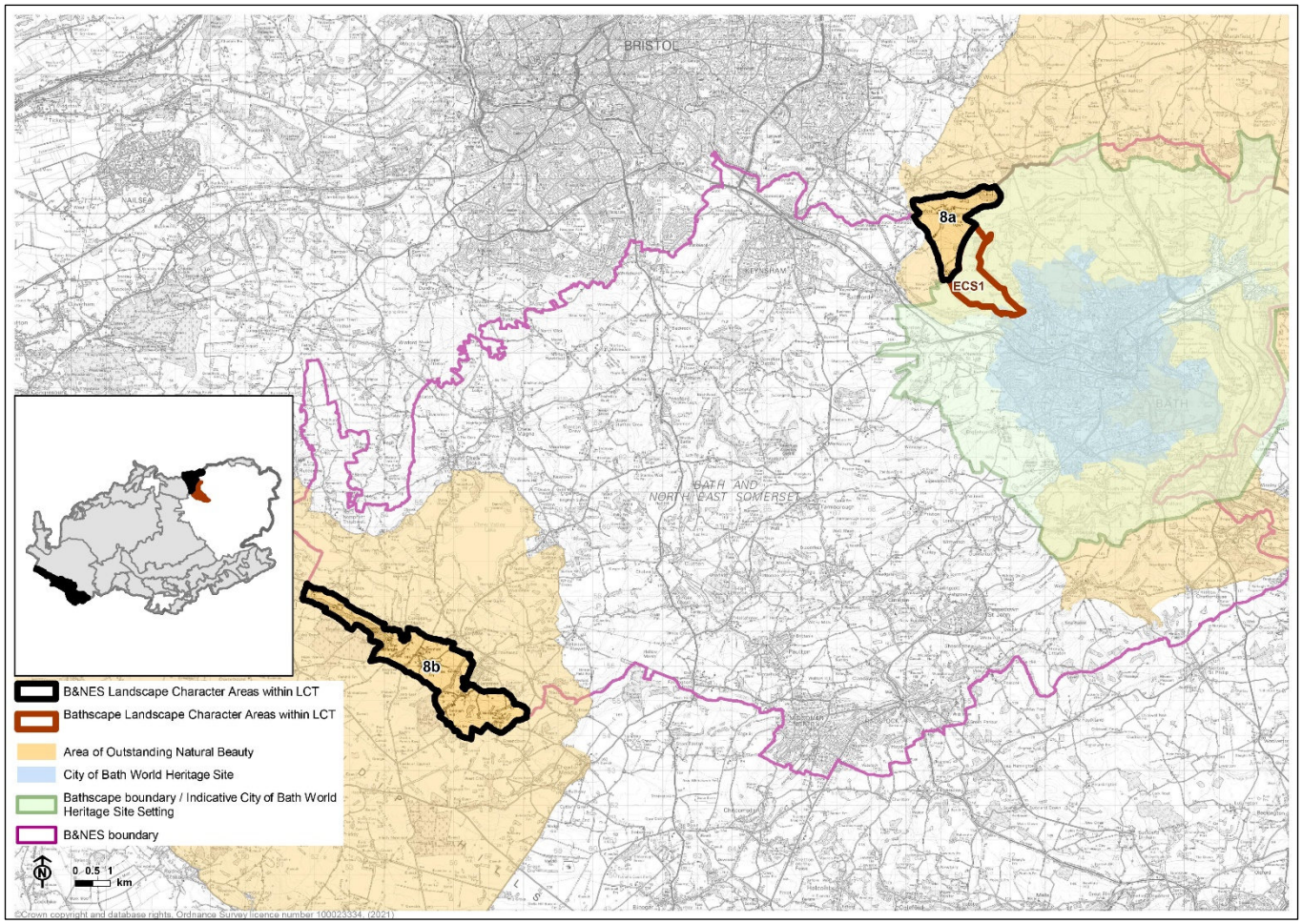
Overall recommendations:

- Turbines (up to the lower end of Band C) would be most readily accommodated on more open, elevated plateau which is larger in scale, although opportunities are limited due to other landscape sensitivities.
- The LCT could incorporate single Band A and B wind turbines, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Turbine development should be avoided within the Cotswolds AONB.
- Due to the sensitivities of the landscape, particularly its visual relationship with sensitive adjacent landscapes including the Cotswolds AONB the Mendip Hills AONB and the City of Bath WHS, opportunities for multiple turbine developments – i.e. wind farms, are limited.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band D turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[1].
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Ensure ancillary features match the local vernacular of historic farmsteads e.g. using local materials for any substation or other buildings.
- Ensure tracks associated with development do not erode historic late-medieval field patterns or damage characteristic sunken lanes, replacing hedgerows and hedgerow trees if they are affected.
- Avoid siting wind energy developments on distinctive and locally significant landform features such as Maes Knoll.
- Locate larger turbines on higher ground and in areas of larger scale fields, away from the complex small-scale historic landscapes.
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate, or prevent the understanding and appreciation of, historic landmarks on the skyline, such as the prehistoric Fairy Toot Long Barrow (7a) the prehistoric hill fort at Maes Knoll and the Wansdyke earthwork (7b).
- Avoid siting turbines within the HLC Type 'Rough Ground' at Maes Knoll, which would be highly vulnerable to wind energy development.
- Seek to protect important views that are integral to the character of the Conservation Areas of Radstock and Paulton.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. the Two Rivers Way (7a), Three Peaks Way (7b) and Community Forest Path (7b) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – if development will be visible, aim for a balanced composition.
- For development sites within the areas visible from key viewpoints from the City of Bath WHS, consider how turbines interact with these views - seek to protect the significance of these viewpoints.
- Protect the areas of LCA 7c identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Peasedown St John, Norton Radstock and Paulton. Ensure any wind energy developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the distinctive features of the LCT including, historic landmarks (such as Maes Knoll Hill Fort and the Wansdyke linear earthwork), areas of late-medieval field patterns, the sense of tranquillity (away from major settlements and roads), species-rich hedgerows and sunken lanes.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Consider the setting and views to the Mendip Hills AONB and Cotswolds AONB when siting wind energy developments ensuring the special qualities of the AONB are not adversely impacted.

[1] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



View south to settlement at West Harptree, nestled at the foot of the Mendip slopes.

View north from Smitham Hill on the Mendip Slopes over Chew Valley and beyond.

View west from sloping fields at North Stoke over lower-lying settlements at Saltford and Keynsham.

View south from North Stoke across small sloping fields to the distinctive conical form of Kelston Round Hill.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A steeply sloping landform, becoming steeper on upper slopes with local undulations and occasional rock outcrops. ■ Slopes are incised with minor valleys or combes which are often wooded, creating a sense of enclosure. ■ Unwooded slopes have a greater sense of openness and are strongly intervisible with adjacent landscapes. ■ The landscape has localised areas of intimate quality, provided by local undulations in the topography, incised valleys and combes and tall hedges and woodland blocks. ■ Human scale features include scattered farmsteads, trees and hedgerows.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Land use is predominantly pastoral. In places, cultivation is limited by the steepness of the slopes, which are characterised by woodland or rough grassland. ■ Many woodlands (including Ubley Wood, Compton Wood, Harptree Combe, The Grove and Buckley Wood) are ancient semi-natural woodlands and identified as SNCI. Harptree Coombe is also a SSSI. ■ Fields are small-medium sized with irregular boundaries. In contrast, distinctly rectilinear fields are found at The Wrangle, to the south of Compton Martin (8b). ■ Tall hedges with frequent trees generally enclose the fields. Walls occasionally extend into LCA 8b as a characteristic flowing from the adjacent Mendips plateau. ■ Settlement comprises dispersed farmsteads on the slopes. ■ The LCT is crossed by few roads, except for lanes running up the slopes.
Historic landscape character	■ The escarpment running between Dean Hill and Prospect Stile (LCA ESC1) is part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS. ■ The historic cores of North Stoke and Kelston are Conservation Areas, containing clusters of listed buildings, including the grade II* listed Church of St Martin in North Stoke. ■ The HLC indicates that field boundaries are *piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields* of late medieval origin. ■ The remains of small quarries and limekilns, now marked by undulations on the ground, reflect the significant mining heritage of the area. ■ The grade II listed 19th century aqueduct at Harptree Combe is an important landscape feature (LCA 8b). ■ The site of 12th Century Richmont Castle, located to the west of East Harptree, is a Scheduled Monument (LCA 8b).
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The AONB-designated Mendip Slopes (LCA 8b) have an important visual relationship with much of the west of district, providing a backdrop to views in the upper Chew and Yeo valleys as well as being visible from the elevated landscapes to the north (LCA 7b) and east (LCA 5b). ■ There are expansive views from the Mendip Slopes (LCA 8b) over the wider countryside to the north and west, as well as longer views over the Severn Vale and beyond into Wales. ■ The escarpments within the Cotswolds AONB (LCA 8a and ESC1) provide a backdrop to views from Bath, and the low-lying landscapes to the south and west. ■ Kelston Round Hill (LCA ESC1) is an important local landmark rising up from the escarpment skyline and is visible for miles around, including from many parts of Bath and Bristol. ■ The steeply sloping topography, as well as the strong network of hedgerows, trees and woodland limit views in some directions, particularly on lower slopes. ■ Skylines are undeveloped (apart from occasional telegraph poles/wires) and are marked by hedgerow trees and woodland.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The LCT falls within the Mendip Hills AONB in the south-west (LCA 8b), and within the Cotswolds AONB in the north-east (LCA 8a and ESC1). ■ It is a rural area with high levels of tranquillity, often with little perceived human influence. ■ Traffic on the A368 and A431 cause localised disruptions to tranquillity. ■ Views to the urban edge of Bristol, Saltford and Keynsham slightly detract from the overall rural and 'remote' character of the landscape.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The strongly wooded slopes and local undulations in topography (providing visual enclosure) could indicate a lower sensitivity to small, carefully sited solar PV developments. However, the landscape's location within the wider AONB-designated landscapes of the Mendip Hills and Cotswolds, steep and highly visible slopes, large tracts of semi-natural ancient woodland, medieval field patterns, historic settlements, high levels of tranquillity and scenic qualities would be highly sensitive to schemes of Band B or above.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas identified as being part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS within Bathscape LCA ESC1 (east of Kelston, including Kelston Round Hill) would have high sensitivity to solar PV development.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The presence of some larger scale development, such as modern agricultural barns (particularly in LCA 8b) could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the landscape is located within the Mendip Hills and Cotswolds AONB and includes many distinctive characteristics of these designated landscapes which increase sensitivity to wind energy development. The sloping landform, undeveloped skylines, hedgerow trees and large areas of ancient woodland, medieval field patterns, historic settlements, high levels of tranquillity and scenic qualities also heighten levels of sensitivity. Overall, the LCT would be highly sensitive to wind turbines greater than Band A in height.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

Areas identified as being part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS within Bathscape LCA ESC1 (east of Kelston, including Kelston Round Hill) would have high sensitivity to any scale of wind energy development.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscape LCA ESC1					
BAND A (≤5ha)				4	
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)					5
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)				4	
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential scores for Bathscape LCA ESC1					
BAND A (18-25m)					5
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are limited opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including smaller developments within Band B) to be sited on shallower, more sheltered slopes of the LCT, with screening provided by hedges, woodland, and localised undulations in topography.
- It is unlikely that larger scale Band B developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, particularly in areas characterised by medieval field patterns or ancient semi-natural woodland.
- None of the landscape has potential to accommodate Band C or D developments due to its landscape sensitivities and location within nationally designated (AONB) landscapes.
- Areas identified as visually important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS are particularly sensitive and solar PV development would not be appropriate in these locations (LCA ESC1).

Strategic landscape guidance:

- The steeply sloping landform of this LCT is prominent in views across the district, including from Hinton Blewett, the Chew Valley and Thrubwell Plateau. Ensure that the attractive long views to the LCT and the scenic backdrop provided by the LCT to many viewpoints are retained.
- Ensure that solar PV developments are an occasional rather than a dominating feature of the landscape.
- Choose sites on lower slopes and in sheltered folds in the landscape where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character. Avoid locating solar PV developments on open upper hill slopes.
- Preserve medieval field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes including from Chew Valley Lake and Prospect Stile or Kelston Round Hill, as well as from the numerous public rights of way which cross the LCT.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Mendip Hills AONB and Cotswolds AONB including long views and the strong rural character.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect the steep wooded slopes (including areas of ancient semi-natural woodland), medieval field patterns and strong traditional rural character as distinctive features of this landscape.
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

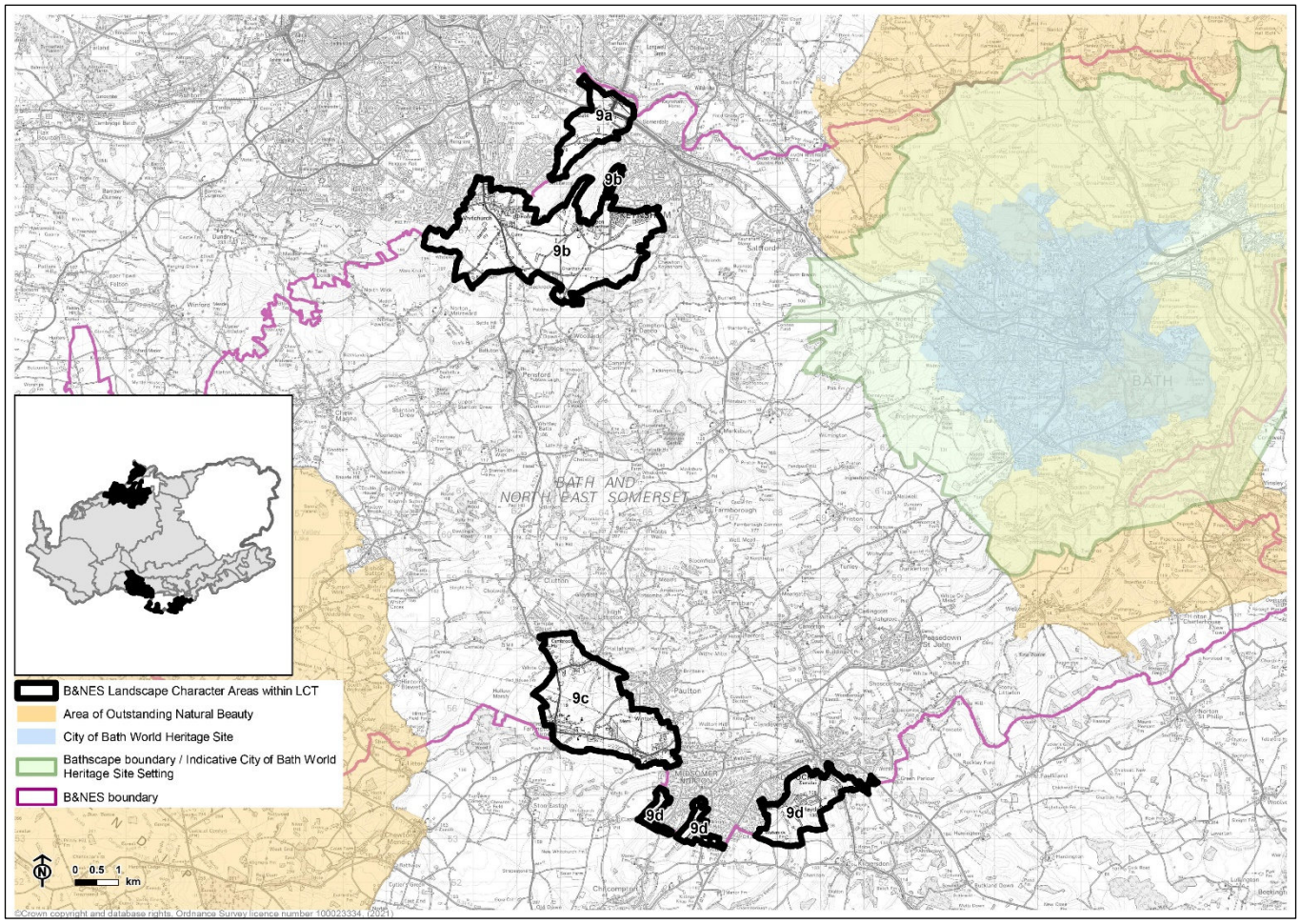
- There are very limited opportunities for wind energy development in the LCT due to the prominent and highly visible nature of the slopes and its location within the Cotswolds AONB and Mendip Hills AONB and strong visual relationship with sensitive adjacent landscapes, most notably the City of Bath WHS.

- Due to the sensitivities of the landscape there are no opportunities for multiple turbine developments – i.e. wind farms.
- Areas identified as visually important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS are particularly sensitive and wind energy development would not be appropriate in these locations (LCA ESC1).

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Locate turbines away from the prominent scarp edge, steeper slopes and complex landform of the combes.
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- Ensure any ancillary features (e.g. buildings and walls) match the local vernacular e.g. using local materials and that features such as tracks do not erode historic field patterns or damage rural sunken lanes.
- Replace hedgerows and stone walls if they are affected by development.
- Protect mature trees and woodlands from the impacts of development, especially ancient woodlands and those associated with historic landscapes.
- Ensure wind energy developments do not detract from views to the distinctive scarp slopes, particularly from within the Mendip Hills AONB or from the surrounding area in the west of district (including LCA 2a, 7b and 5b) or from within the Cotswolds AONB, from Bath, and surrounding low-lying landscapes to the south and west.
- Ensure wind turbines do not adversely affect the historic qualities and integrity of designed views to and from Kelston Park and Newton Park, including distinctive views of Kelston Round Hill.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. from Chew Valley Lake and Prospect Stile or Kelston Round Hill, as well as from public rights of way) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – aiming for a balanced composition from where development will be visible.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Mendip Hills AONB and Cotswolds AONB including long views and the strong rural character.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



View north from Stockwood Lane of 'horsiculture' land use, with Bristol settlement edge beyond.

View north-east to Radstock settlement edge across a sloping pasture field.

View south-west from Paulton Road across a large arable field towards Farrington Gurney

Enclosed fields south of Whitchurch.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ An elevated, gently sloping or undulating landform with some steeper slopes in stream valleys (particularly pronounced in parts of LCA 9d). ■ The landscape sits above neighbouring valley landscapes, gently sloping to the Avon and Stockwood Vale in the north of the district, and to the Cam and Wellow Brooks or their tributaries in the south. ■ The LCT is overlooked by the higher Dundry ridge to the west (LCA 7b). ■ The sloping landform, limited tree cover and low clipped hedgerows, result in a sense of openness. ■ The topography, small scale, and woodland cover in the incised valleys around Radstock (western parts of LCA 9d) result in a greater sense of enclosure. ■ Human scale features include hedgerows, scattered trees along the watercourses and around settlements, isolated farms and Farrington Gurney church (LCA 9c).
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Larger fields on flatter ground are often under arable cultivation, e.g. on the elevated plateau south of Radstock (LCA 9d) and within the Whitchurch Farmland LCA (LCA 9b). ■ An irregular pattern of small-medium fields under mixed pasture and arable use, with smaller pasture fields situated on steeper slopes and around settlements. ■ Fields are bound by low clipped hedgerows, often augmented with post and wire fencing or subdivided by pony tape where fields are used for grazing horses e.g. around Whitchurch and Stockwood (LCA 9b). ■ The LCT is largely unwooded, except for occasional scattered small woods and mature trees around settlements. Hedgerow trees are rare. ■ The urban influence of adjacent settlements (Bristol to the north of the LCT and Midsomer Norton to the south) is evident in land use e.g. golf courses, garden centre, sports facilities, playing fields and horse grazing. ■ Settlement consists of scattered farmsteads and linear developments along roads, and small villages including Whitchurch and Queen Charlton (in the north) and Farrington Gurney and Haydon (in the south).
Historic landscape character	■ The HLC indicates that the majority of the land is late medieval *piecemeal enclosure* with some smaller areas of *floodplain and meadowlands* along watercourses. ■ The historic village of Queen Charlton, centred on a village green, is designated as a Conservation Area and contains a cluster of listed buildings with small to medium fields radiating out from the village, forming part of its setting. ■ The historic core of Farrington Gurney includes several listed cottages and former farmhouses. ■ Relicts of the mining industry are evident in the landscape, particularly in the south, and include disused collieries and spoil heaps, which are sometimes marked by woodland batches. ■ The disused Great Western Railway and earthwork incline at the former mining village of Haydon are designated as part of the Radstock Conservation Area due to their importance to the mining heritage of the Kilmersdon valley (LCA 9d).
Visual character (including skylines)	■ Long-distance views are available to surrounding lower-lying valleys, with extensive views from the north of the LCT (LCA 9a and 9b) across the open farmland of Chew Valley to the limestone plateau beyond. ■ Views to the harsh urban edge of Keynsham and Bristol in the north of the LCT and to Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Paulton in the south influence landscape character. ■ The outline of isolated trees, and more rarely small woods or tree belts, are typical on the otherwise open skylines. ■ Pylons and overhead cables introduce vertical features on the skyline. ■ The prehistoric hillfort on Maes Knoll (in LCA 7b) is an important local landmark and there is a strong intervisibility between the Scheduled Monument and the lower lying landscape to the west of the A37. ■ The church tower at Farrington Gurney and the distinct conical shape of Old Mills spoil heap near Paulton, are both distinctive local landmarks (LCA 9c).
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ A rural landscape with urban influences from surrounding settlements, with suburban land uses on settlement edges. ■ Transport corridors disrupt tranquillity across the LCT. The north of the LCT is particularly disrupted by the sound of heavy traffic from the A4 trunk road and aircraft using Bristol Airport.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The relatively simple landform across much of the LCT, urban-edge land uses and the influence of human development, could indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments. However, the visual prominence of some slopes, open character due to the general absence of woodland and limited tree cover, small-medium field pattern and mining heritage heighten levels of sensitivity to larger schemes (Band D or above).

Areas of the LCT with flatter landform and large-scale farmland, particularly where enclosure is provided by hedgerows, or areas bordering existing infrastructure or industrial/commercial development (e.g. LCA 9c or 9d), would be less sensitive to smaller solar PV developments (Band A and B).

Steeper slopes that are intervisible with adjacent areas (such as the north-facing slopes in LCA 9a, which have intervisibility with Bristol) or valued landscape features (including parts of LCA 9b which can be seen from Maes Knoll Hill fort) would have a higher sensitivity to solar PV developments. Rural areas of LCA 9b which provide a setting to the historic settlement of Queen Charlton would also be less suitable for solar PV developments due to the small-scale medieval field pattern. The small incised valleys within LCA 9d (west of the A367) would be more sensitive to solar PV development due to the steep, visible slopes and small-scale, intimate landform, as well as proximity to the settlement edge of Midsomer Norton.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The relatively simple landform across much of the LCT, urban-edge land uses, influence of human development (including pylons) could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the human scale features, visual prominence of parts of the LCT and visual relationships with Bristol (LCA 9a) heighten levels of sensitivity, particularly for larger turbines.

Areas of flatter landform with large-scale farmland within the LCT, particularly where enclosure is provided by hedgerows, or areas bordering existing infrastructure or industrial/commercial development (e.g. LCA 9c or 9d), would be less sensitive to smaller solar PV developments (Band A and B).

Rural areas of LCA 9b which provide a setting to the historic settlement of Queen Charlton would be less suitable for wind energy developments due to the presence of human scale features and the small-scale medieval field pattern.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

The exposed north-facing slope of LCA 9a would be more sensitive to larger scale wind energy development than other areas of the LCT, due to its prominent elevated position and strong intervisibility with the settlement edge of Bristol.

The small incised valleys within LCA 9d (west of the A367) would have a high sensitivity to large scale (Band C and above) wind energy development due to the steep slopes and intimate scale landform, as well as proximity to the settlement edge of Midsomer Norton.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: Solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)	1				
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)			3		
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)				4	

Overall assessment of landscape potential: Wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low): LCA 9b, 9c and LCA 9d (east of the A367)					
BAND A (18-25m)	1				
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)			3		
BAND D (100-120m)				4	
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential for LCA 9a and 9d (west of the A367)					
BAND A (18-25m)	1				
BAND B (26-60m)		2			
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including the lower end of Band D) to be sited on more gently sloping or flat elevated areas of the LCT, which are not overlooked and where screening is provided by hedgerows.
- Undulations forming sheltered folds in the landscape (e.g. north of Farrington Gurney LCA 9c) may provide some suitable locations for solar PV development, utilising hedgerow vegetation for additional screening.
- LCA 9d, which is has a more complex landform and more extensive semi-natural habitats, would only have potential for carefully sited Band A or lower end Band B solar PV developments due to its landscape sensitivities.
- It is unlikely that Band D developments within the higher end of the banding would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Choose sites on flatter slopes or with more enclosed undulations in the landscape where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character e.g. the plateau farmland south of Whitchurch (9b) and undulating farmland north of Farrington Gurney (9c).
- Avoid locating solar PV developments on open slopes with localised visual prominence, particularly on the south-facing slopes overlooking the Chew Valley, and north-facing slopes which have strong intervisibility with Bristol.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. from surrounding settlement edges and from longer views from the Chew Valley) when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Ensure solar PV development does not adversely affect distinctive features relating to local mining heritage (such as Old Mills batch).
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Norton Radstock, Paulton, Whitchurch and Keynsham. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Maintain the setting of historic rural settlements within the LCT, including Queen Charlton and Radstock Conservation Areas.
- Protect the small medieval field pattern surrounding Queen Charlton, by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting solar PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Ensure that solar PV developments form part of the mixed agricultural and sub-urban land-uses – rather than becoming a dominating land use.
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

Wind energy developments

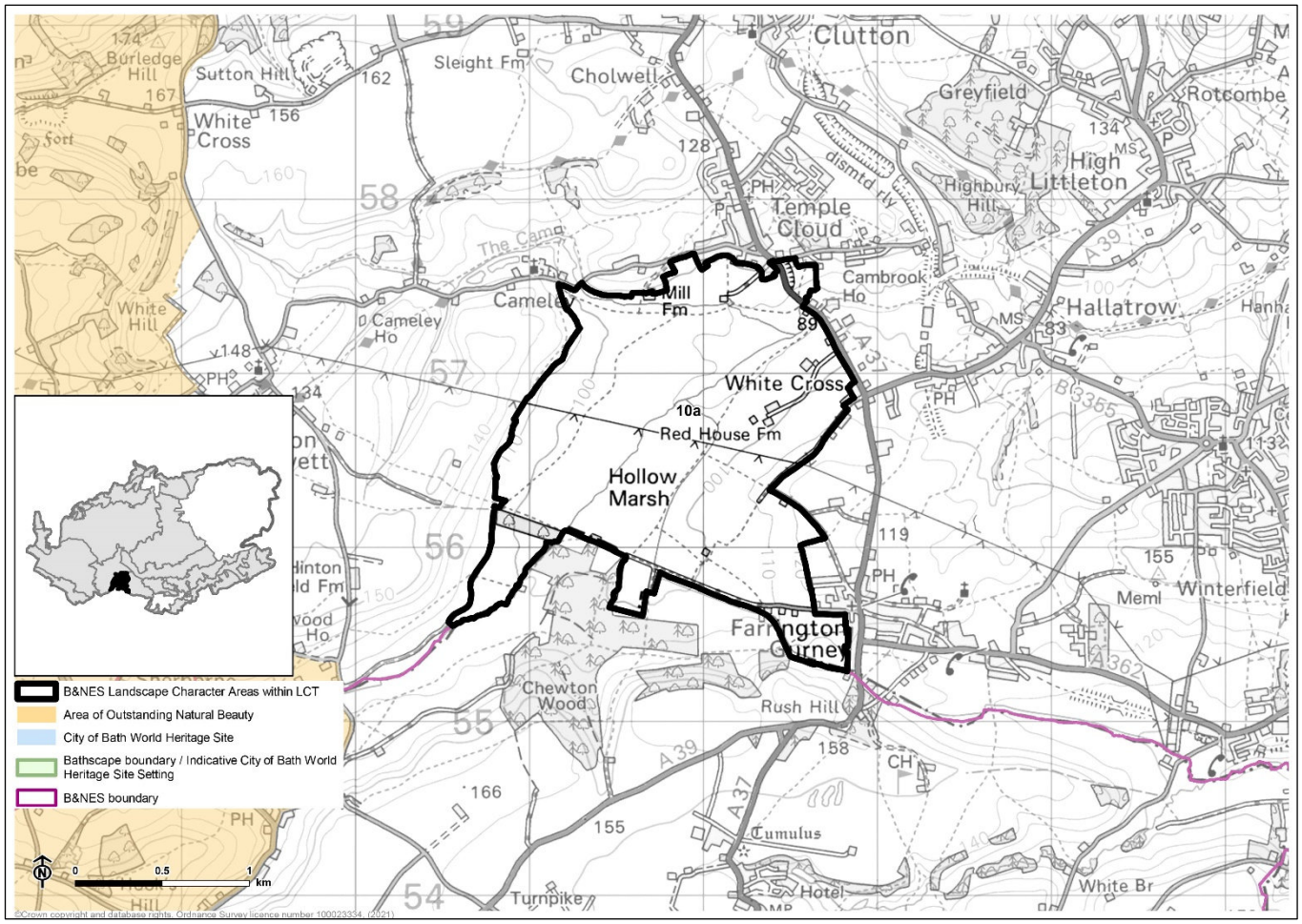
Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for wind energy development to be sited on more gently sloping or flat elevated areas of the LCT, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Consider opportunities to locate Band A or B turbines on the edge of larger settlements where they may relate to existing built development or brownfield land.
- Band C or D turbines would be most readily accommodated on more open, elevated land which is larger in scale, although opportunities are limited due to other landscape sensitivities.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band E turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[1].
- Avoid locating turbines on the smaller-scale incised valleys on the steep valley sides around Radstock, which are characterised by areas of semi-natural woodland.
- Avoid locating turbines on prominent slopes with localised visual prominence, particularly those overlooking the Chew Valley and those which are visible from the Mendips Hills AONB.
- Locate larger turbines (up to Band C) on higher ground and in areas of larger scale fields, away from the complex and small-scale historic landscapes at Queen Charlton and east of Radstock.
- Explore opportunities to integrate single turbine schemes within areas of existing commercial / industrial development, e.g. on the fringes of Radstock and Midsomer Norton.
- Ensure tracks associated with development do not damage historic field patterns (particularly around Queen Charlton).
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate or prevent the understanding and appreciation of historic landmarks, including the relics of mining heritage around Radstock, and prominent church towers at Queen Charlton and Farrington Gurney.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the landscape setting of Norton Radstock, Paulton, Whitchurch and Keynsham. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. Maes Knoll in the adjacent LCA 7b) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – if development will be visible, aim for a balanced composition.
- Ensure siting, design and layout of turbines do not conflict with existing vertical landscape features including church towers at Farrington Gurney and Queen Charlton, and pylons crossing farmland near Farrington Gurney (LCA 9c).

[1] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



Mature trees following the Cam Brook in the north of the LCT.

View towards the Church of St James (Cameley) from the south-east.

View towards Temple Cloud from the south of the LCT.

Belted Galloway cattle grazing in a field enclosed by hedgerows. Views extend to the sloping landform to the south of the LCT.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ A low-lying, distinctive bowl-like landform which is flat to gently undulating. ■ Gentle slopes enclose the area to the west, south and east. ■ Small to medium-scale fields bound by hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks and traditional farmsteads give the area a smaller scale feel and offer localised enclosure. ■ In places, clipped hedgerow boundaries allow more open views and give the impression of a larger-scale landscape. ■ Human scale features include hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks and farmsteads.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Much of the LCT is under permanent pasture (used for rearing livestock) particularly on the slopes towards the edges of the LCT with significant arable cultivation in the south of the area. ■ The small to medium-sized fields have a distinct regular and broadly rectangular pattern, aligned down the slopes towards the brook. ■ Field boundaries are marked by clipped hedgerows in mixed condition and ditches with frequent oak and ash hedgerow trees. ■ Important habitats include neutral grassland communities and ancient, deciduous woodland at Long Dole Wood & Meadows, a SSSI, LNR (Hollow Marsh Meadow Nature Reserve) and SNCI. The route of the Cam Brook is a SNCI. ■ This is a sparsely settled landscape containing two farms and some isolated properties. ■ The settlements of Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney lie just outside of the LCT, with some modern ribbon development following the edge of the LCT.
Historic landscape character	■ The LCT does not contain any known designated features of historical interest. ■ The National HLC identifies field patterns to be a mixture of *Piecemeal Enclosure of open strip fields*, *Reclaimed Land*, and *Planned Fields* of Late Medieval and Post-Medieval origin.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The distinctive bowl-like landform and well enclosed small to medium-scale fields limits the visual relationship with surrounding LCTs. ■ The more open landscape in the south affords views to surrounding undeveloped wooded/pastoral ridgelines, including Hengrove and Chewton Woods. ■ Views extend to surrounding settlements outside of the LCT including modern development at Temple Cloud to the north and some ribbon development along the edges of the LCT. ■ The grade I listed Church of St James in Cameley (to the north-west of the LCT) is a distinctive skyline features in views from the LCT. ■ Skylines are mostly undeveloped, containing frequent hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks and farm buildings. ■ A pylon route crosses the centre of the area and is intrusive on skylines. ■ The Mendip Transmitter and Mendip Turbine Shooter's Bottom (Band D) are visible on the skyline in distant views to the south-west.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ A strongly rural and tranquil landscape owing to the absence of development, with some pleasing combinations of features including streams and hedgerow trees and a presence of birdsong. ■ In contrast, the north, north-east and south-east of the LCT is influenced by modern ribbon settlement, and urban fringe land uses (e.g. scrap metal yard in the south-east) and the A37. ■ The landscape is criss-crossed by public rights of way.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The flat landform and enclosure provided by the network of hedgerow boundaries, with little visual connection to surrounding LCTs, could indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments. However, the small-medium field patterns, combined with localised areas of nature conservation significance (e.g. Hollow Marsh Meadow Nature Reserve) and the rural and tranquil character of the landscape heighten levels of sensitivity to solar PV schemes of Band C or above.

The north of the LCT near the A37 would be less sensitive than the rest of the LCT due to the existing influence of built features, particularly where visually enclosed by hedgerow boundaries. The south of the LCT is notably rural and undeveloped and would be more sensitive. Areas of sloping landform enclosing the LCT would be particularly sensitive to solar PV development due to their localised visual prominence.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

There is only one LCA within this LCT.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The flat lowland landform, lack of visual connection to surrounding LCTs, larger scale arable fields (particularly in the south of the LCT) and limited historic features could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the tranquil and traditional rural nature of the landscape, the presence of human scale features (including frequent mature trees and small woodlands) and small-medium sized fields heighten levels of sensitivity. The human scale of the landscape would be affected less by smaller scale turbines.

Band A and the lower end of Band B turbines would be the most appropriate for the landscape character, with larger turbines likely to appear 'out of scale' with the landscape.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

N/A – there is only one LCA within this LCT.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)	1				
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)		2			
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for new development (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)		2			
BAND B (26-60m)			3		
BAND C (61-99m)				4	
BAND D (100 -120m)					5
BAND E (121 -150m)					5

+

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are opportunities for new solar PV developments (up to and including the higher end of Band B) to be sited in the less visually prominent flat fields, where screening is provided by hedgerows and woodlands.
- It is unlikely that Band C or Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, particularly in areas characterised by smaller-scale field patterns.
- New solar PV developments should not be sited on sloping landform with localised visual presence, on the eastern and western edges of the LCT.
- The areas of the landscape fringing the A37 and settlement edges of Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud (where already impacted by human influence) would have greater landscape potential than the more remote areas of the landscape.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Choose sites on lower-lying flat fields, enclosed by hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character. Avoid locating solar PV developments on open slopes.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).
- Multiple developments within the landscape should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- Ensure that solar PV developments form part of the mixed farmland mosaic – rather than becoming a dominating land use.
- Preserve the landscape's strong field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Protect and conserve areas of nature conservation interest including Long Dole Wood & Meadows SSSI (also a Local Nature Reserve) and the route of the Cam (identified as a SNCI). Avoid siting any solar PV developments within these areas.
- Consider views from the public rights of way crossing the landscape when considering the siting and design of solar PV developments.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Ensure the siting of panels does not interrupt the appreciation of views to the Grade I listed church of St James at Cameley.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the rural landscape setting of Temple Cloud. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as its locally important character, views and features.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).

Wind energy developments

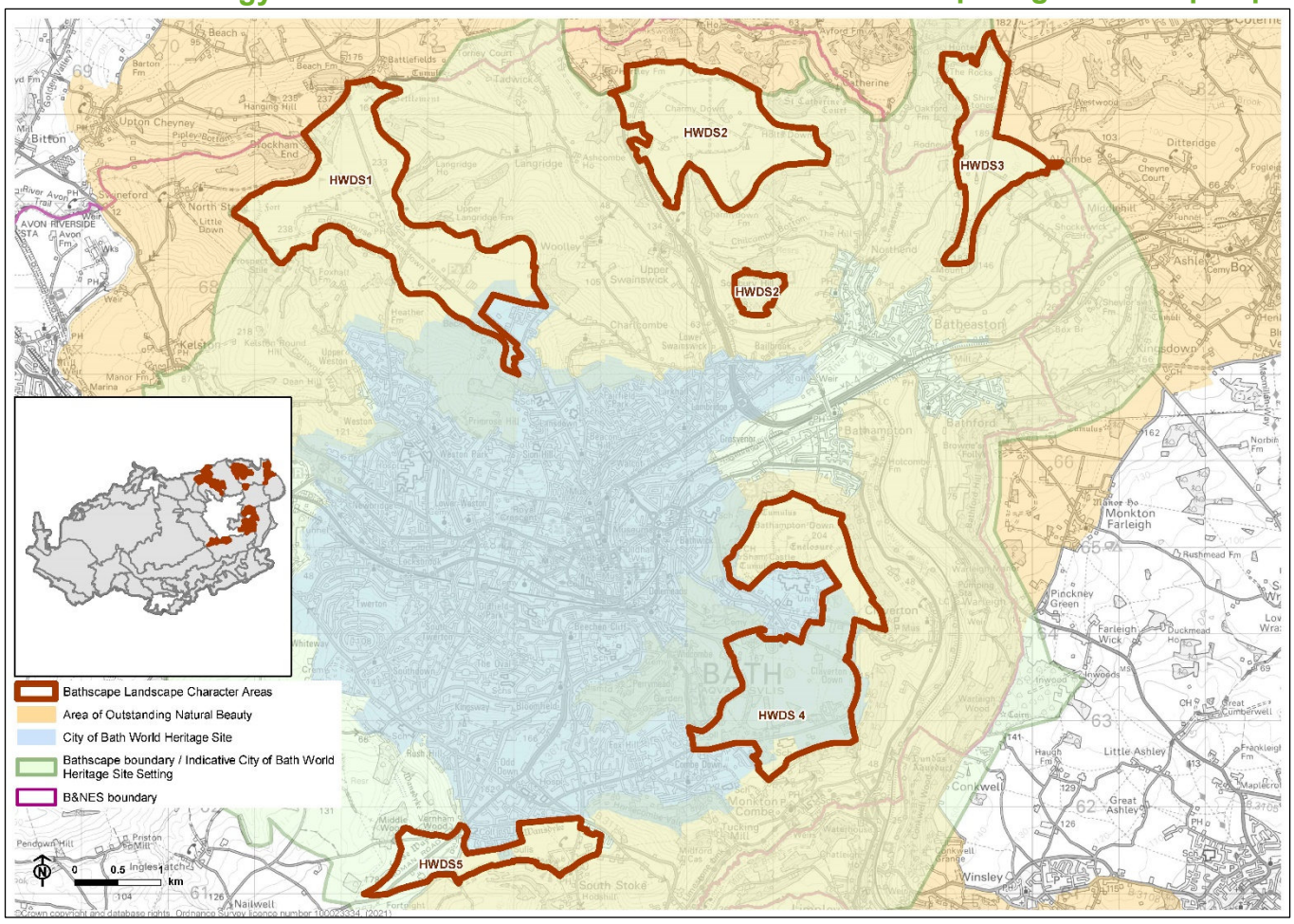
Overall recommendations:

- The agricultural landscape could incorporate single Band A or B wind turbines, most readily in the south of the LCT, where landform and field pattern are of a larger scale.
- None of the landscape is identified as suitable for Band D turbines due to its sensitivities.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[1].
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the same banding, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area.
- A scattering of Band A and B turbines across the landscape should be avoided to minimise cumulative effects. It may be more desirable to have fewer medium turbines (or large turbines in exceptional cases) rather than a greater number of small turbines to reduce clutter.
- Ensure tracks associated with development do not eliminate historic field patterns and that hedgerows and drainage ditches are replaced or reinstated if they are affected by development.
- Ensure ancillary features match the local vernacular where appropriate e.g. ensure substation buildings blend with existing buildings in the landscape.
- Locate larger turbines on areas of flatter ground and in areas of larger scale fields, away from the complex small-scale historic field patterns with frequent human scale features.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and public rights of way when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – aiming for a balanced composition from where development will be visible.
- Conserve the cohesive nature of the landscape – restore landscape features where they are affected
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate or prevent the understanding and appreciation of views to the grade I listed Church of St James in Cameley (to the north-west of the LCT) a historic landmark on the skyline.
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A) as being important to the rural landscape setting of Temple Cloud. Ensure any wind developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as its locally important character, views and features.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular public rights of way when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – if development will be visible, aim for a balanced composition.
- Ensure wind energy development does not adversely affect the character of this strongly rural and tranquil landscape with a distinctive shallow bowl-like landform and pleasing combinations of features including streams, hedgerow trees and regular field patterns, distinctive features of this landscape.

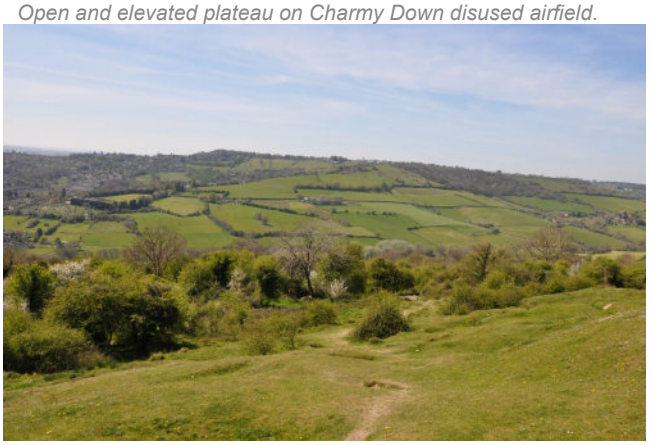
[1] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.



View north of Bath racecourse on Lansdown Plateau.

Open and elevated plateau on Charmy Down disused airfield.

Small enclosed fields on the western side of the Fosse Way near Bannerdown Common.



View south-west from the summit of Little Solsbury Hill.

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Criteria	Description
Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)	■ Flat, or gently rounded plateaux, elevated above the surrounding landscape. ■ The plateaux are small in extent and isolated from the main dipslope and from each other by steep sided valleys ■ The plateau landform with limited tree cover creates a sense of openness with intermittent enclosure from woodland on valley slopes just below the plateau. ■ Human scale features include hedgerows, occasional trees, stone walls and scattered farm buildings.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Large-scale arable or improved pasture fields, with areas of smaller-scale mixed farmland, contained by a strong framework of hedges and woodland (e.g. HWDS5). ■ Stone walls are a notable feature, particularly adjacent to roads and around settlements. ■ Recreational land use is significant and includes the racecourse and playing fields at Lansdown (HWDS1), golf courses and playing fields at Bath University (HWDS4). ■ Areas of open access and common land are characteristic (Bannerdown Common, Little Solsbury Hill, Bathampton and Claverton Down). ■ Extensive semi-natural grassland (Priority Habitat lowland meadow and lowland calcareous grassland) most notified as SNCI, are found at Charmy Down (HWDS2), Bathampton Down (HWDS4) and Bannerdown Common (HWDS3). ■ Sparsely settled with scattered farmsteads and dispersed hamlets.
Historic landscape character	■ The LCT falls within the City of Bath WHS Setting, with parts of HWDS1, HWDS4 and HWDS5 within the WHS itself. ■ Hillforts, including two west of Lansdown, one on the summit of Little Solsbury Hill and another at Bathampton Down Camp (designated as Scheduled Monuments) are characteristic of the area. ■ Part of an extensive Civil War battlefield is located on Lansdown Plateau (HWDS1). ■ Beckford's Tower, a Georgian architectural folly overlooks Bath from the western edge of Lansdown plateau, and is an important landmark (HWDS1). ■ Prior Park, a grade I Registered Park and Garden, extends south into Claverton Down (HWDS4). ■ Georgian landscape features and remnant parkland (including parts of Ralph Allen's Carriage Rides, the racecourse at Bushey Norwood and Sham Castle) characterise Bathampton and Claverton Downs (HWDS4). ■ The historic hamlet at Lansdown (HWDS1) and South Stoke (Conservation Area) (HWDS5) have numerous listed buildings. ■ The HLC indicates that field boundaries are *reorganised field systems* of post-medieval origin surrounding Bath, and 18th century *planned fields* elsewhere.
Visual character (including skylines)	■ The open and elevated plateau landform affords many expansive views, particularly from public access land or footpaths running close to the plateau edge. ■ The enclosed wooded character of Claverton Down and Bushey Norwood (HWDS4) contrasts to the generally open character of the type. ■ Views into the LCT are frequently limited by the plateau landform. ■ The edge of the plateaux form distinctive features from surrounding areas, including the skyline surrounding Bath (particularly from the Bath Skyline, a walking route which encircles the City of Bath). ■ Prospect Stile, an important Georgian viewpoint on the edge of Lansdown Plateau (HWDS1) has extensive views of Bath and its surrounding hills. ■ From the summit of Little Solsbury Hill (HWDS2) there are panoramic views, including over Bath. ■ From Lansdown (HWDS1) and Bannerdown Common (HWDS3) there are views to surrounding skylines Views from the higher parts of Bathampton Down (HWDS 4) extend to the surrounding Cotswolds plateau.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The LCT falls within the Cotswolds AONB (which extends north east) and the City of Bath WHS Setting. Claverton Down (HWDS4) and the south of HWDS1 fall within the City of Bath WHS itself. ■ The scenic views from many of the public rights of way (including The Cotswold Way and Bath Skyline walk), make the area popular for recreation. ■ The strong sense of tranquillity on the exposed and windswept plateaux, is enhanced by the expansive views and large skies. ■ Traffic on the A46 which runs west of Charmy Down (HWDS2) and Lansdown Road (HWDS1), and the park and ride developments at Lansdown (HWDS1) and Odd Down (HWDS5) detracts from the otherwise peaceful character.

	■ New development on the plateaux at Lansdown (housing) and Claverton (University of Bath) break the skylines and detract from their coherence.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: solar PV developments

Summary

The flat plateau landform, simple pattern of large scale arable fields and presence of existing human development (including park and ride facilities, telecom masts, busy roads, golf courses, sports pitches and the Lansdown Racecourse) could indicate a lower sensitivity to carefully sited solar PV developments, particularly where hedgerows or shelter belts provide enclosure. However, the open character of much of the landscape due to limited woodland and trees, extensive semi-natural grasslands, important heritage assets, as well as expansive views over the surrounding landscape from the edge of the plateaux, proximity to the City of Bath WHS, and strong scenic and perceptual qualities heighten levels of sensitivity.

This LCT is located within the Cotswolds AONB, which is nationally designated for its scenic qualities. It is also identified as part of the City of Bath WHS setting. There may be opportunities for smaller solar PV developments (Band A) if sited in association with existing development, away from the plateau edge.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

The presence of existing development at Bath Racecourse and the park and ride facility and sports facilities would indicate that Lansdown Plateau LCA (HWDS1) would be less sensitive, with some opportunities for carefully sited Band A and Band B solar PV development.

HWDS4 would be particularly sensitive due to its location within the City of Bath WHS. Little Solsbury Hill (an isolated area of HWDS2 to the south of Charmy Down) would also be highly sensitive, primarily due to its small size and local prominence, its cultural and natural heritage designations and recreational value as open access land.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: wind energy developments

Summary

The flat plateau landform, simple landscape pattern of large-scale arable fields and presence of existing human development (e.g. park and ride facilities, telecom masts, busy roads, golf courses, sports pitches and Lansdown Racecourse) could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, extensive semi-natural grasslands, important heritage assets, the strong visual relationships and setting provided to the City of Bath World Heritage Site, and strong scenic and perceptual qualities heighten levels of sensitivity.

This LCT is located within the Cotswolds AONB, which is nationally designated for its scenic qualities. It is also identified as part of the City of Bath WHS setting.

There may be opportunities for wind energy development of Band A and the lower end Band B within this LCT if carefully sited away from the plateau edge and in association with existing development, for example near the park and ride developments at Lansdown (HWDS1) and Odd Down (HWDS5) or adjacent to the existing transmission mast on Bannerdown Common (HWDS3).

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

HWDS4 would be particularly sensitive due to its location within the City of Bath WHS. Little Solsbury Hill (an isolated area of HWDS2 to the south of Charmy Down) would also be highly sensitive, primarily due to its small size and visual prominence, its cultural and natural heritage designations and recreational value as an area of open access land.

Assessment of landscape potential to accommodate renewable energy development

Overall assessment of landscape potential: solar PV developments					
Landscape potential for LCA HWDS 2, HWDS 3, and HWDS 5 (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)				4	
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential for Bathscape LCA HWDS1					
BAND A (≤5ha)			3		
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)			3		
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)				4	
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5
Landscape potential for Bathscape LCA HWDS 4 and Little Solsbury Hill (within HWDS 2)					
BAND A (≤5ha)					5
BAND B (>5 to 10ha)					5
BAND C (>10 to 15ha)					5
BAND D (>15 to 30ha)					5

Overall assessment of landscape potential: wind energy developments					
Landscape potential for LCA HWDS 1, HWDS 2, HWDS 3, and HWDS 5 (1 being high; 5 being low)					
BAND A (18-25m)			3		
BAND B (26-60m)				4	
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5
Landscape potential for Bathscape LCA HWDS 4 and Little Solsbury Hill (within HWDS 2)					
BAND A (18-25m)					5
BAND B (26-60m)					5
BAND C (61-99m)					5
BAND D (100-120m)					5
BAND E (121-150m)					5

Recommendations and guidance for future renewable energy development within the LCT

Solar PV developments

Overall recommendations:

- There are limited opportunities for new Band A solar PV developments to be sited on enclosed areas on the plateaux of the LCT, where screening is provided by hedgerows, or very occasional woodland.
- No new solar PV developments should be sited on areas identified as visually important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS or within the City of Bath WHS itself, or where they break the wooded skyline around the city.
- No Band C or Band D developments would be able to be incorporated within any parts of the landscape without impacting on character, due to its national designation as part of the Cotswolds AONB and as part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB, and ensure the site and scale of development does not detract from these.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance.
- Consider locating small solar PV developments near existing development e.g. sports fields, park and ride facilities.
- Choose sites on flatter, enclosed land on the plateaux where development would be less visible and have less of an influence on landscape character. Avoid locating solar PV developments on open upper hill slopes.
- Avoid siting solar development in areas of habitat interest, including grassland and deciduous woodland Priority Habitats.
- Protect the landscape's valued hedgerow and in-field trees, avoiding any loss of specimens through the impacts of development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (including panoramic views from Prospect Stile, Little Solsbury Hill, The Cotswold Way and the Bath Skyline walk route) as well as open access areas when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape.
- Avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters (e.g. from main roads or public rights of way), particularly from the side or back (where the rows of panels would be discernible).
- Protect the character of areas identified within the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Policy NE2A)[1] as being important to the landscape setting of surrounding settlements including the settlements of Bath and Batheaston. Ensure any solar PV developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to these settlements as well as their locally important character, views and features.
- The overall aim should be to make sure that solar PV developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape (i.e. avoiding significant cumulative impacts on the LCT from multiple developments that would result in an overall change in landscape character).

Wind energy developments

Overall recommendations:

- The flat and large-scale plateau landscape, particularly at Lansdown and Bannerdown Common could incorporate single Band A wind turbines, as long as a scattering of turbines across the landscape is avoided to minimise cumulative effects.
- Due to the sensitivities of the landscape, including the prominent skylines, strong visual relationship with the City of Bath World Heritage Site and it's setting, and its location within the Cotswolds AONB there are no opportunities for multiple turbine developments – i.e. wind farms.
- No new wind energy developments should be sited on areas identified as visually important to the setting of the City of Bath WHS or within the City of Bath WHS itself, or where they break the wooded skyline around the city.

[1] Bath and North East Somerset Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan: District-wide Strategy and Policies (adopted July 2017) .

- No turbines should be located on or around Little Solsbury Hill due to its visual prominence, cultural significance and recreational value.
- No Band C, Band D or Band E turbines would be able to be incorporated into any parts of the landscape without impacting on landscape character, due to its national designation as part of the Cotswolds AONB and as part of the setting to the City of Bath WHS.

Strategic landscape guidance:

- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character[2].
- Explore opportunities to integrate single turbine schemes within areas of existing development, for example at Lansdown Racecourse or at park and ride facilities at Lansdown and Odd Down.
- Locate turbines away from the plateau edge where whey would be more visually prominent in views from Bath and surrounding lower-lying landscape.
- Ensure any wind energy developments do not detract from the setting the landscape provides to the City of Bath WHS.
- Ensure ancillary features (e.g. buildings and walls) match the local vernacular e.g. using local materials.
- Replace hedgerows and stone walls if they are affected by development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (including panoramic views from Prospect Stile, Little Solsbury Hill, The Cotswold Way and the Bath Skyline walk route) as well as open access areas when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape.
- Avoid adverse effects on the setting of the City of Bath WHS, its OUVs and attributes which make a major contribution to its significance. Preserve important views that are integral to the setting of the City of Bath WHS and seek to protect their significance, such as views to and from Beckford's Tower and Sham Castle.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cotswolds AONB (particularly the open landscape character with long views, the traditional limestone buildings, stone walls and numerous public rights of way) and ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.

[2] For further guidance in designing multiple wind turbine developments, see Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape: Guidance. Version 3a available here.

Appendix B

Data / information sources

Key sources of information used to inform this study:

- B&NES Landscape Character Assessment Update (LUC, 2021)
- Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment[12]
- North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment[13]
- The special qualities and spatial boundaries of the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs, as outlined in their Management Plans[14][15]
- Nature Conservation designations (international, national and local)
- City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan[16]
- City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting SPD[17]

B.1 In addition, the following table lists the main datasets collated and analysed in Geographic Information System (GIS) software as a key part of the evidence base for this study.

Table B.1: GIS data considered in the assessments

GIS layer	Source
Base maps	
Local authority boundaries	Ordnance Survey
Ordnance Survey 1: 25K	B&NES Council
Ordnance Survey 1: 50K	B&NES Council
Ordnance Survey 1:250k	Ordnance Survey
Aerial imagery	ESRI
Landscape	
National Character Areas	Natural England

[12] Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment, 2017, B&NES Council
[13] North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment, 2018, Wardell Armstrong.
[14] Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023, Cotswolds Conservation Board.
[15] Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2019-2024, Mendip Hills AONB Partnership.
[16] The City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan 2016-2022, City of Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group.
[17] City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting SPD, 2013, B&NES Council

GIS layer	Source
B&NES Landscape Character Assessment (2021 update and original 2009 study)	B&NES Council
Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment	B&NES Council
North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment	B&NES Council
Mendip District Landscape Character Assessment	B&NES Council
Mendip Hills AONB Landscape Character Assessment	B&NES Council
South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment	B&NES Council
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Natural England
Agricultural Land Classification	Natural England
Light pollution	CPRE
Tranquillity	CPRE
CORINE Land Cover	EEA
Historic environment	
Conservation areas	B&NES Council
Listed buildings	Historic England
Registered Parks and Gardens	Historic England
Scheduled Monuments	Historic England
Registered battlefields	Historic England
Locally listed buildings	B&NES Council
City of Bath World Heritage Site and Setting boundaries	B&NES Council

GIS layer	Source
Ecological environment	
Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)	B&NES Council
Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)	Natural England
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Natural England
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Natural England
Ramsar	Natural England
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Natural England
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Natural England
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Natural England
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	Natural England
Access and recreation	
Country Parks	Natural England
National Trails	Natural England
National and Regional Cycle Routes	Sustrans
Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace	Ordnance Survey
CRoW Act Open Access Land / Open Country	Natural England
National Trust Land – Always Open / Limited Access	National Trust